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## BioTechCircle News®

**December, 2004**

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Quote of the month:

”The resources assembled to tackle the human genome are now being dedicated to illuminating the genomes of organisms that may offer biological solutions to economical hydrogen production, carbon sequestration, and environmental clean-up.”

[http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/life\\_sciences/report-38206.html](http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/life_sciences/report-38206.html)

It is our sincere hope that this newsletter brings YOU a greater awareness of the fascinating developments in the life sciences that have wide-ranging applications.

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**In this articles section: links to 63 free Web articles in 10 major categories.**

The major categories are in alphabetical order and further subdivided to make it easy for you to locate news and developments in technology, the business and the markets in the life science areas of interest to you.

***Note: if the links don't connect you directly, please copy and paste the entire URL into your web browser.***

Here are the major categories and the page where each category starts:

Agri-Biotech (1 article) – Page 2  
Drug Delivery (1 article) – Page 2  
Investments/Government Support (1 article) – Page 2  
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## AGRI-BIOTECH

### *Subcategory: Crops*

#### **Opportunities for Food Makers from Tomato Genome Project**

Food Navigator

02-Dec-05

By identifying genes responsible for important crop traits, a global project to sequence the genes of tomato could lead to new and improved tomato varieties.

<http://www.foodnavigator.com/news/news-NG.asp?n=56488-tomato-genes-bring>

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## DRUG DELIVERY

### *Subcategory: Intravesical*

#### **Silence Is Golden**

Zachary Zimmerman

Bio-IT World

15-Dec-04

If direct RNAi delivery is successful in humans, the next major challenge will be to deliver siRNAs systemically through the bloodstream.

<http://www.bioitworld.com/archive/121504/insights.html>

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## INVESTMENTS/ GOV. SUPPORT

### *Subcategory: Genomics*

#### **Chromosome 16 Publication Fulfills DOE's Human Genome**

Innovations Report

21-Dec-04

The resources assembled to tackle the human genome are now being dedicated to illuminating the genomes of organisms that may offer biological solutions to economical hydrogen production, carbon sequestration, and environmental clean-up

[http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/life\\_sciences/report-38206.html](http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/life_sciences/report-38206.html)

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## NOVEL APPLICATIONS

### *Subcategory: Miscellaneous*

#### **Israeli Scientist Produces Genetically Engineered Spider Web Fiber**

David Brinn

Israel21 C

29-Nov-04

Scientists have succeeded in producing self-assembled spider web

fibers under laboratory conditions, outside of the bodies of spiders.

The fibers may be useful for bulletproof vests, surgical thread, micro-conductors, optical fibers and fishing rods.

<http://www.israel21c.org/bin/en.jsp?enDispWho=Articles%5E1842&enPage=BlankPage&enDisplay=view&enDispWhat=object&enVersion=0&enZone=Profiles&>

### **DNA 'Velcro' Binds Nanoparticles**

Will Knight

New Scientist

02-Dec-05

Strands of DNA have been used to fasten - and then separate - nanoparticles in experiments that could lead to the development of fundamentally "self-constructing" materials. These materials could have novel electrical and optical properties.

<http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn6749>

### **NYU Chemists Create Dna Translation Machine**

New York University

16-Dec-04

Chemists have developed a device that allows for the translation of DNA sequences. The invention has the potential to develop new synthetic fibers, advance the encryption of information, and improve DNA-based computation.

<http://www.nyu.edu/public.affairs/releases/detail/110>

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## **ORGANIZATIONS**

### *Subcategory: Bio Pharma*

#### **Craig Venter: DNA's Mapmaker**

John Carey

Business Week

08-Dec-04

Reviews the accomplishments of biologist, co-founder of Celera Genomics, who engineered a major leap in scientific knowledge -- and earned millions -- by masterminding efforts to probe the DNA of everything from microbes to man.

[http://biz.yahoo.com/bizwk/041208/b3912019mz072\\_1.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/bizwk/041208/b3912019mz072_1.html)

#### **Spotting Biotech's 2005 Stars**

Amy Tsao

Business Week

28-Dec-04

Looks at 6 biotech companies whose stocks may help drive the biotech sector higher in 2005: Biogen Idec, Genzyme General, Gilead Sciences, Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Biocryst, Chiron.

[http://www.businessweek.com/technology/content/dec2004/tc20041228\\_4092\\_tc119.htm](http://www.businessweek.com/technology/content/dec2004/tc20041228_4092_tc119.htm)

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## **PLATFORM TECHNOLOGIES**

### *Subcategory: Assay Systems*

#### **UNC Scientists Develop Promising New Assay for Studying Cancer-causing Breaks in DNA**

University of South

16-Dec-04

Scientists have developed a new microscopic assay that, for the first time, allows them to see DNA breaks in chromosomes in living cells following damage to them. Chromosome damage leads to at least hundreds of fatal or debilitating illnesses.

<http://www.unc.edu/news/archives/dec04/bloom121604.html>

### *Subcategory: Cell Therapy*

#### **Nano-Needle' Operates on Cell**

BBC News

16-Dec-04

Scientists have performed a delicate surgical operation on a single living cell, using a needle that is just a few billionths of a meter wide. The procedure could be used to manipulate embryonic stem cells intended for use in medical treatment.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4078125.stm>

#### **German Doctors Repair 7-Year-Old's Skull Injury With Stem Cells**

Bloomberg.com

17-Dec-04

Scientists mixed stem cells derived from the girl's fat tissue with bone graft. New bone had formed and nearly completely closed the skull three months after the reconstruction with the graft.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000100&sid=a8IY9hIKb9ro&refer=germany>

#### **Zapped Human Eggs Divide Without Sperm**

Andy Coghlan

New Scientist

01-Dec-05

A trick that persuades human eggs to divide as if they have been fertilized could provide a source of embryonic stem cells that avoids ethical objections to existing techniques. It could also be used to improve the success rate of in vitro fertilization.

<http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn6733>

### *Subcategory: Drug Discovery*

#### **Running Interference**

Nancy Weil

Bio-IT World

15-Dec-04

Tells how the discovery of RNA interference has shifted the way we understand the paradigms of biology as well as a new approach to therapeutics.

<http://www.bio-itworld.com/archive/121504/running.html>

### **Identifying RNAi Drug Candidates**

David A. Bumcrot

Bio-IT World

15-Dec-04

In contrast to the extensive lead optimization steps required in small molecule and protein drug discovery, RNAi drug candidates can be identified using bioinformatics to select sequences complementary to the target mRNA.

[http://www.bio-itworld.com/archive/121504/rnai\\_alynylam.html](http://www.bio-itworld.com/archive/121504/rnai_alynylam.html)

### **Applications of RNAi**

William Marshall

Bio-IT World

15-Dec-04

Discusses how the rapid output of functional information made possible by RNAi-based strategies alleviates the bottleneck of target validation.

[http://www.bio-itworld.com/archive/121504/rnai\\_applications.html](http://www.bio-itworld.com/archive/121504/rnai_applications.html)

### **An Unusual Path for RNAi Technology**

Dmitry A. Samarsky and  
Peter J. Welch

Bio-IT World

15-Dec-04

As a new tool for gene knockdown in mammalian cells, RNAi became one of the most widely used technologies in both academic and industrial research environments, spurred by an urgent need in the scientific community to decipher sequence data.

[http://www.bio-itworld.com/archive/121504/rnai\\_path.html](http://www.bio-itworld.com/archive/121504/rnai_path.html)

### **Flipping a Molecular Switch**

Genomics & Proteomics

02-Dec-04

By combining two unrelated proteins researchers created a molecular switch that they say illustrates the potential of using such switches to "rewire the cellular circuitry" and could lead to the development of novel ways to treat disease.

<http://www.genpromag.com/ShowPR.aspx?PUBCODE=018&ACCT=1800000100&ISSUE=0412&RELTYPE=PR&ORIGRELTYPE=RLSN&PRODCODE=00000000&PRODLETT=B>

### **Wyeth Adopts Translation Medicine**

Genomics & Proteomics

07-Dec-04

Discusses a translational medicine strategy to call upon placing biomarker discovery in earlier phases of the discovery and development process to increase the efficiency with which efficacy in humans is

<http://www.genpromag.com/ShowPR.aspx?PUBCODE=018&ACCT=1800000100&ISSUE=0412&RELTYPE=PR&ORIGRELTYPE=RLSN&PRODCODE=00000000&PRODLETT=E>

*Subcategory: Genomics*

## **Tiling Transcription in the Genome**

Drug Discovey &

01-Dec-04

Researchers are able to, for the first time, tile the whole sequence of the human genome on arrays and then probe those to see which regions are expressed and which are then likely to be functional regions or regions that encode genes.

<http://www.dddmag.com/ShowPR.aspx?PUBCODE=016&ACCT=1600000100&ISSUE=0412&RELTYPE=PR&ORIGRELTYPE=GNP&PRODCODE=00000000&PRODLETT=X>

## **Mechanisms and Roles of the RNA-Based Gene Silencing**

Snehasis Jana, Chiranjib  
Chakraborty, Shyamsundar  
Nandi

Electronic Journal of

15-Dec-04

Describes how RNA silencing is part of a sophisticated network of interconnected pathways for cellular defense and development and that it may become a powerful tool to manipulate gene expression

<http://www.ejbiotechnology.info/content/vol7/issue3/abstract/4/index.html>

## **Reconstructing an Ancestral Genome**

Genomics & Proteomics

01-Dec-04

Using a computer program that compares the DNA sequences of 19 species of existing mammals, researchers were able to reconstruct a large portion of the genome of a small ancestral mammal that lived more than 75 million years ago.

<http://www.genpromag.com/ShowPR.aspx?PUBCODE=018&ACCT=1800000100&ISSUE=0412&RELTYPE=PR&ORIGRELTYPE=RLSN&PRODCODE=00000000&PRODLETT=A>

## **'Jumping Gene' Helps Explain Immune System's Abilities**

Innovations Report

23-Dec-04

The process behind the human immune system's ability to recognize and respond to a million different proteins might have originated from a family of genes whose only apparent function is to jump around in genetic material.

[http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/life\\_sciences/report-38205.html](http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/life_sciences/report-38205.html)

## **Scientists Uncover Clues to the Mystery of 'Gene Deserts'**

Lawrence Livermore

09-Dec-04

Gene deserts are long stretches of DNA between genes that were once thought to have no biological function, ("junk DNA"). Scientists are discovering that many of these "non-coding" segments play an important role in regulating gene activity.

[http://www.llnl.gov/pao/news/news\\_releases/2004/NR-04-12-03.html](http://www.llnl.gov/pao/news/news_releases/2004/NR-04-12-03.html)

## **Vollum Institute Discovery May Unlock Human Genome**

Oregon Health & Science

28-Dec-04

Scientists have a technique for identifying control elements that drive the expression of genes in brain cells, which could unleash the disease-fighting potential of the much-hailed human genome.

<http://www.ohsu.edu/news/2004/122804genome.html>

*Subcategory: High Throughput Screening*

**Industrializing Microarrays**

Steve Lomgardi

Modern Drug Discovery

15-Dec-04

Discusses how high-throughput microarray analysis can help improve drug discovery and development.

<http://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/mdd/v07/i12/pdf/1204applications.pdf>

*Subcategory: Lab-on-a-chip/ DNA Chips/*

**Human Sequence Microarray**

Bioscience Technology

01-Dec-04

Presents a microarray containing more than 384,000 unique 50mer probes selected from 30 megabases of human sequence data specified by the ENCODE Project Consortium.

<http://www.biosciencetechnology.com/ShowPR~PUBCODE~090~ACCT~9000019052~ISSUE~0412~RELTYPE~PR~ORIGRELTYPE~FP~PRODCODE~00005804~PRODLETT~A.html>

*Subcategory: Miscellaneous*

**A Technological Look at Yesterday and Today Could Predict Tomorrow's**

Paul Bleicher

Applied Clinical Trials

01-Dec-04

Reviews the state of information technology in 2004 with the goal of trying to identify the early trends that will lead to important mainstream technologies in the future.

<http://www.actmagazine.com/appliedclinicaltrials/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=135836>

*Subcategory: Oncology*

**Cloned Gene from Sea Animal May Prove Key in Cancer Drug**

Scripps Research Institute

09-Dec-04

Researchers have taken a significant step forward in developing a new method to produce drug compounds with potential to treat various types of cancer.

[http://scrippsnews.ucsd.edu/article\\_detail.cfm?article\\_num=661](http://scrippsnews.ucsd.edu/article_detail.cfm?article_num=661)

*Subcategory: Proteomics*

**Protein Heads Coupled to DNA Tails**

Researchers devised a technique to detect and count small numbers of proteins and other molecules. It is designed to work with current polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machines.

<http://www.genpromag.com/ShowPR.aspx?PUBCODE=018&ACCT=1800000100&ISSUE=0412&RELTYPE=PR&ORIGRELTYPE=RLSN&PRODCODE=00000000&PRODLETT=T>

## RESEARCH ADVANCEMENTS

### *Subcategory: Cardiology/ Vascular Diseases*

#### **MIT Researchers Grow Heart Tissue from Rats' Cells**

Boston Herald

14-Dec-04

Researchers have used rat cells to grow dime-sized swatches of heart tissue that twitch like a beating heart when an electrical current passes through them. If patches are successful, human hearts could eventually be repaired by lab-grown tissue.

<http://news.bostonherald.com/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=58835>

### *Subcategory: Gastroenterology*

#### **Faulty Gene Signaling Linked to Crohn's**

HealthDay

28-Dec-04

Researchers have identified mutant forms of a gene called NOD2 responsible for faulty inflammatory signaling process that may lead to the development of Crohn's disease.

<http://www.healthday.com/view.cfm?id=523095>

### *Subcategory: Immunology/ Infectious Diseases*

#### **Assays by Flow Predict Lupus**

Genomics & Proteomics

20-Dec-04

Lupus is perhaps one of the most difficult autoimmune diseases to diagnose because it can mimic literally any other disease and the disease is different in every patient. Discusses the advantages of flow cytometry over other techniques.

<http://www.genpromag.com/ShowPR.aspx?PUBCODE=018&ACCT=1800000100&ISSUE=0412&RELTYPE=PR&ORIGRELTYPE=RLSN&PRODCODE=00000000&PRODLETT=N>

#### **Certain Immune Genes Key in Fighting HIV**

HealthDay

08-Dec-04

Scientists have identified human immune system genes that may play an important role in fighting HIV. This discovery may help researchers find ways to counter HIV's use of rapid mutation to foil anti-HIV's

use of rapid mutation to foil anti-HIV vaccines.

<http://www.healthday.com/view.cfm?id=522769>

### **Gene Therapy Beats 'Bubble Boy' Disease**

Kathleen Doheny

HealthDay

20-Dec-04

Researchers report that gene therapy has successfully treated 4 children with severe combined immunodeficiency disorder, more popularly known as the "bubble boy" disease.

<http://www.healthday.com/view.cfm?id=522960>

### *Subcategory: Metabolism: Obesity, Diabetes*

### **Algorithm Predicts MicroRNA Targets**

Drug Discovey &

01-Dec-04

To study the function of microRNAs (miRNAs) in regulating metabolism in mammals, researchers used a recently developed algorithm to identify targets of an miRNA found in pancreatic islet cells. They discovered an miRNA that regulates insulin secretion.

<http://www.ddmag.com/ShowPR.aspx?PUBCODE=016&ACCT=160000100&ISSUE=0412&>

### *Subcategory: Miscellaneous*

### **Mobile Phones 'Alter Human DNA'**

BBC News

21-Dec-04

Radio waves from mobile phones do harm body cells and damage DNA, but research has not proven such changes are a risk to human health.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4113989.stm>

### *Subcategory: Musculoskeletal*

### **So Close . . . a Back-up Gene to Save Young Lives**

Times Online

08-Dec-04

Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), once among the least-understood diseases in medical textbooks, has recently emerged as one of the genetic conditions for which a therapy is almost within reach.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,18311-1392662,00.html>

### *Subcategory: Neurology*

### **New Details on Parkinson Gene Outlined**

HealthDay

15-Dec-04

A study has found that a protein produced by a gene called BAG5 inhibits parkin activity and another protein, Hsp70, that works with parkin. Parkin is known to be a major cause of Parkinson's.

<http://www.healthday.com/view.cfm?id=522902>

### **Important Genetic Risk Factor for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis**

News-Medical.net

06-Dec-05

A defect in a gene on chromosome 6 known as Hfe, previously associated with the iron overload disease hemochromatosis and with Alzheimer's disease, has been found to be a likely risk factor for ALS.

<http://www.news-medical.net/?id=6702>

### **Gene Linked to Myelin Repair in the Brain**

SCIENCE BLOG

07-Dec-04

Researchers have determined that the Olig 1 gene jump-starts a process that can restore, at least temporarily, the myelin coating of nerves damaged in multiple sclerosis.

<http://www.scienceblog.com/community/article4957.html>

### **University of Texas at Austin Researchers Identify Drug-tolerance Mechanism in Flies**

University of Texas at

30-Nov-04

A protein found on the surface of nerve cells makes fruit flies tolerant to a drug after just a single, brief exposure, which may reveal ways to address this early step toward addiction in humans.

[http://www.utexas.edu/opa/news/04newsreleases/nr\\_200411/nr\\_neurobiology041130.html](http://www.utexas.edu/opa/news/04newsreleases/nr_200411/nr_neurobiology041130.html)

### ***Subcategory: Oncology***

### **Gene for Cancer Compound Cloned**

Genomics & Proteomics

15-Dec-04

A new method for producing a naturally occurring drug compound, a family of chemical compounds called bryostatins, for the treatment of cancer is being developed by researchers.

<http://www.genpromag.com/ShowPR.aspx?PUBCODE=018&ACCT=1800000100&ISSUE=0412&RELTYPE=PR&ORIGRELTYPE=RLSN&PRODCODE=00000000&PRODLETT=K>

### **Genetic Test Helps Predict Breast Cancer Recurrence**

Ed Edelson

HealthDay

10-Dec-04

A study has successfully identified women at very low risk of having their cancer recur after treatment with tamoxifen, a standard drug for the disease.

<http://www.healthday.com/view.cfm?id=522826>

### **Stowers Researcher Publishes DNA Double-strand Break Repair Discovery in Science**

Innovations Report

20-Dec-04

DNA double strand breaks are regarded as one of the primary causes of cancer. Researchers have identified a histone-modifying complex which facilitates DNA double-strand repair by locally increasing DNA accessibility at sites of damage.

[http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/life\\_sciences/report-38046.html](http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/life_sciences/report-38046.html)

### **First 'Atlas' of Key Brain Genes Could Speed Research on Cancer, Neurological Diseases**

Innovations Report

27-Dec-04

Researchers have compiled the first atlas showing the locations of crucial gene regulators, or switches that determine how different parts of the brain develop – and, in some cases, develop abnormally or malfunction.

[http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/life\\_sciences/report-38260.html](http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/life_sciences/report-38260.html)

### **UCSD Discovery Shows How Embryonic Stem Cells Perform 'Quality Control' Inspections**

Innovations Report

27-Dec-04

Researchers report findings that a protein, p53, known to play a critical role in the suppression of tumors in both humans and mice, is also used to maintain the genetic stability of embryonic stem cells.

[http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/life\\_sciences/report-38263.html](http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/life_sciences/report-38263.html)

### **UNC Researchers Develop Procedure To Track DNA Damage**

LocalTechWire.com

22-Dec-04

Chromosome damage triggers many fatal or debilitating illnesses, including cancer. A procedure has been developed that tracks the breakdown in DNA chromosomes, a step that could lead to future therapeutic treatments to repair the damage.

<http://www.localtechwire.com/printstory.cfm?u=10201>

### **Researchers Discover New Gene In Colon Cancer: A Naturally Occurring COX-2 Inhibitor**

Science Daily

22-Dec-04

Interaction between TGF-beta and 15-PGDH points to the importance of the TGF-beta system in suppressing colon cancer, giving targets for the development of new drugs or gene therapies that may help treat or prevent colon cancer.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/12/041220011942.htm>

### **Discovery Of First Demethylase Molecule, A Long-sought Gene**

Science Daily

27-Dec-04

Researchers have discovered an enzyme that plays an important role in

controlling which genes will be turned on or off at any given time in a cell. The protein helps orchestrate gene activity for normal cell function. Their disruption can lead to cancer.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/12/041219161836.htm>

### **Graying Hair Yields Skin Cancer Clue**

Daniel DeNoon

WebMD

23-Dec-04

Melanoma is a cancer that affects pigmented cells called melanocytes -- the same cells that give hair its color. In the hair, whatever makes these cells die off as a person ages may point to new treatments for deadly skin cancer.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/article/98/104975.htm?z=1728\\_00000\\_1000\\_tn\\_06](http://my.webmd.com/content/article/98/104975.htm?z=1728_00000_1000_tn_06)

### *Subcategory: Psychiatry/ Psychology*

### **A Genetic Difference at the Opiate Receptor Gene Affects a Person's Response to Alcohol**

Innovations Report

15-Dec-04

New findings indicate that individuals with the G variant of the A118 polymorphism of the OPRM1 gene have greater subjective feelings to alcohol's effects as well as a greater likelihood of a family history of alcohol-use disorders.

[http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/medicine\\_health/report-37815.html](http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/medicine_health/report-37815.html)

### **Mutant Gene Linked to Treatment-Resistant Depression**

Miranda Hitti

NIH News

14-Dec-04

A newly discovered gene mutation may make some people more vulnerable to depression. The mental illness may be caused by a complex mix of genetic and environmental factors.

<http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/dec2004/nimh-14.htm>

### *Subcategory: Reproduction*

### **Scientists Discover Key Egg Enzyme For Blocking Sperm Entry After**

Cell Press

15-Dec-04

An egg must undergo a rapid and complex series of changes to prevent entry by more than one sperm because it is detrimental to normal development. Scientists have discovered an enzyme involved in generating hydrogen peroxide blocking additional sperm.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/print.php?url=/releases/2004/12/041206205951.htm>

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## **RESEARCH TOOLS**

### *Subcategory: Computing Systems*

#### **IBM, SGI Earn Top Bragging Rights at SC2004 Conference**

Salvatore Salamone

Bio-IT World

15-Dec-04

Despite the increased availability of supercomputers for life science applications, challenges remain: how to make more efficient use of this power and easier to use, as multidisciplinary approaches are taken to solve complex biological problems.

[http://www.bioitworld.com/archive/121504/itin\\_bragging.html](http://www.bioitworld.com/archive/121504/itin_bragging.html)

#### **Use of Computational Chemistry Techniques Progresses as the Lines Between it and Cheminformatics Begin to Blur**

Sean Keating

Drug Discovery &

01-Dec-04

The approach taken to design a drug using computational chemistry techniques varies depending on the information available at the start. Discusses modeling tools and techniques.

<http://www.dddmag.com/ShowPR.aspx?PUBCODE=016&ACCT=160000100&ISSUE=0412&RELTYPE=PR&ORIGRELTYPE=CEM&PRODCODE=00000000&PRODLETT=O>

### *Subcategory: Databases*

#### **Managing the Flood of Metabolite Profiling Data**

Lori Valigra

Drug Discovery &

01-Dec-04

As the field of metabolic profiling evolves, looks at the challenges of interpreting data and comparing it with genomic and proteomic

<http://www.dddmag.com/ShowPR.aspx?PUBCODE=016&ACCT=160000100&ISSUE=0412&RELTYPE=PR&ORIGRELTYPE=INFE&PRODCODE=00000000&PRODLETT=AB>

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## **STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS**

### *Subcategory: M&A Activities*

#### **The Day in Review: Biotech Slides into the Close**

Richard Daverman

Centinent Biotech

07-Dec-04

In the largest bio-medical deal in 2004, Johnson & Johnson is reported to be negotiating to buy Guidant Corporation, the nation's second largest (after Boston Scientific) maker of cardiovascular devices—stents, pacemakers and defibrillators.

<http://www.centinentinvestor.com/articles.php?a=read&aid=307>

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## **THERAPEUTIC CATEGORY**

### *Subcategory: Cardiology/ Vascular Diseases*

#### **Milk Peptide Gains Evidence of Bp-lowering Effect**

Nutra Ingredients

03-Dec-05

Researchers report a small research study shows a casein peptide, called C12, reduced systolic pressure in 10 participants by an average of 9 points, while diastolic pressure fell an average of 6 points.

<http://www.nutraingredients.com/news/news-ng.asp?n=56530-milk-peptide-gains>

### *Subcategory: Disease Prevention*

#### **DNA Test Can Identify 'the Smoker's Gene'**

Christine Doyle

News Telegraph

02-Dec-04

Smokers can now test themselves to find out if they carry a gene that predisposes them to heavy smoking and nicotine addiction. Smokers with the gene who are trying to quit are much more likely to succeed if they choose nicotine replacement.

<http://news.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2004/12/02/nfag02.xml>

#### **Lung Cancer May Run in Families**

Jennifer Warner

WebMD

21-Dec-04

A new study indicates that having a relative with lung cancer may more than triple the risk of developing the disease. Although genetics plays a role in affecting lung cancer risk, researchers say tobacco smoke still plays the dominant role.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/article/98/104905.htm?z=1728\\_00000\\_1000\\_tn\\_06](http://my.webmd.com/content/article/98/104905.htm?z=1728_00000_1000_tn_06)

### *Subcategory: Musculoskeletal*

#### **Injectable Gel Could Speed Repair of Torn Cartilage**

American Chemical

09-Dec-04

Researchers are developing an injectable gel that could speed repair of torn cartilage, using the patient's own cartilage-producing cells.

<http://center.acs.org/applications/ccs/application/index.cfm?pressreleaseid=2421&categoryid=2>

#### **Scientists 'Switch off' Arthritis**

BBC News

20-Dec-04

Joints become swollen and sore, partly because the body sends white blood cells (neutrophils) to the joints, thus combating the disease; scientists found a way to curb the vast amount of toxins released into the joints at the same time.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/merseyside/4111185.stm>

*Subcategory: Pulmonary/ Respiratory Diseases*

**Researchers Develop Quick Bird Flu Test**

News Scotsman

08-Dec-04

Early diagnosis is crucial to controlling bird flu outbreaks. A new test makes that possible by producing results in one or two hours, compared to up to a week or more for older tests.

<http://news.scotsman.com/latest.cfm?id=3857718>

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