



Press release



The MEHTRICS European consortium is putting together an end user committee to evaluate and orient strategic developments in a novel RNAi screening platform

Thursday September 20th: CYTOO, a company that specializes in micropattern-enhanced cell-based assays, has teamed up with Cenix BioScience, a pioneer in developing industrial high-content screening applications of RNAi, and three European academic partners to challenge the current limits of high throughput (HT) RNAi screening in cultured cells. The SME-driven project, coordinated by CYTOO, aims to combine HT applications of RNAi with an emerging new technology for normalizing cultured cells' behavior by growing them on adhesive micropatterns. The MEHTRICS consortium has been awarded a 4 million Euros research grant over 3 years under the European Commission's Seventh Framework Program.

Currently in its first year of development, the consortium is seeking to put together an end user committee, with annual meetings, which would have privileged access to the consortium results, and which would provide precious feedback and contribute to future orientations of the development work. "We feel that an external committee with experts in drug discovery and target validation would contribute to broaden the perspectives of our project, while helping us focus on the main bottlenecks in this area", says Alexandra Fuchs (COO, CYTOO), "we look forward to discuss our results with members from pharma biotech and cosmeceutical companies as well as academic groups developing innovative cellular models".

The highly cross-disciplinary consortium includes academic partners from German-based Bioquant (Schwarz's group and Erfle's group), Swiss-based EPFL (Gonczy's group) and Lithuanian-based CPST (Valiokas group) that covers areas from chemistry and nanotechnology to HT cell biology, pharmacology, automated image analysis and mathematical modeling. Altogether, this unique and complementary expertise will synergize to develop new know-how for micropattern-enhanced cell-based assays with a very broad range of applicability. Ultimately, the proof of principle for the optimized methodologies will include several test-scale RNAi screens focused on basic and disease-relevant processes.

For more information and if you wish to join our Mehtrics end user committee, please contact [Alexandra Fuchs](#), COO of CYTOO

About CYTOO

CYTOO is a distinctive Life Sciences Systems/ Tools enabling company that currently offers a breakthrough solution that brings robustness, sensitivity and powerful quantification to cell-based assays and High Content Screening (HCS). The technology offers exquisite control over the cells' microenvironment, leading to normalized cell morphology and behaviour. CYTOO is engaged in developing, manufacturing and commercializing innovative products to the Life Sciences research community (industry and academia). The company has tailored a portfolio of innovative products using its proprietary cell adhesive micropattern technologies to target first its fast growing High Content Screening and Analysis segment within the large cell biology market.

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About Cenix

Cenix BioScience GmbH conducts contract research and technology development focused on cell-based and in vivo applications of RNA interference (RNAi), miRNA modulation and high-content phenotyping to accelerate target discovery, target validation, and the non-clinical development of new drug candidates. Now in its 13th year, Cenix has built up leading scientific and commercial track records, successfully progressing therapeutic programs for numerous industry and academic partners in a wide range of disease fields. This success is anchored in the consistent application of scientific and technical best practices in fully customized, multi-staged projects designed to offer maximal strategic value with full data transparency and carefully minimized risk.

<http://www.cenix.com/>

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