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Press Release

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FIRST GENETIC TRUST & GALILEO GENOMICS ANNOUNCE STRATEGIC COLLABORATION TO PROVIDE INNOVATIVE PHARMACOGENOMICS RESEARCH PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Montreal – June 10, 2003 – First Genetic Trust (FGT) and Galileo Genomics (GG) have announced a collaboration to provide innovative pharmacogenomics research capabilities to the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry. The collaboration will create an unprecedented research resource of large-scale clinical networks from Quebec and the US. The collaboration will provide innovative and targeted pharmacogenomics services across a wide range of key therapeutic areas, including inflammation and immunological diseases, cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, and CNS/psychiatric disorders.

Galileo Genomics will provide derived data from its extensively phenotyped patients from the Quebec Founder Population as well as other global founder populations. The genetic characteristics of these founder populations make them ideal for efficiently identifying genes and pharmacogenomic markers associated with disease and drug response. In addition, Galileo Genomics' state-of-the art capabilities in high-throughput genotyping, bioinformatics and statistical analysis will accelerate genome-wide genetic discovery efforts.

FGT provides access to over 10 million patients in the U.S. who can be recruited for large-scale pharmacogenomic studies to replicate and validate the gene discoveries made in the founder populations. FGT is providing its *enTRUST*[™] genetic banking platform to manage these studies and to create dynamic networks of patients in specific therapeutic and drug response areas. In addition, FGT brings its computational genomics capabilities to the collaboration, including its proprietary genetic pattern discovery and data mining tools, which will be used by the two companies to identify complex correlations between genes associated with drug response.

The combined offering will give pharmaceutical and biotechnology partners a novel, comprehensive platform to accelerate the development of personalized medicines.

"The US FDA is on the threshold of creating a regulatory framework to allow pharmacogenomics to better treat individuals through improved drug development. The combined assets of First Genetic Trust and Galileo will allow us to assist the pharmaceutical industry to develop safer and more effective drugs," said Dr. John Hooper, President and CEO of Galileo Genomics.

“Galileo’s investment in founder populations provides an important research resource,” said Arthur Holden, Chairman and CEO of First Genetic Trust. “FGT is pleased to collaborate with Galileo and provide a truly comprehensive set of capabilities to the pharmaceutical industry at a time when they are clearly needed to advance the progress of pharmacogenomic research.”

About First Genetic Trust

First Genetic Trust (FGT) is the premier provider of comprehensive, secure information technology infrastructure to support the development and adoption of genetic based medicines and diagnostics. Founded by leaders in the fields of pharmacogenetics, bioinformatics, and information systems technology, First Genetic Trust provides genetic data handling and bioinformatics services to pharmaceutical companies, medical researchers, and health care providers engaged in genetic research and its application in clinical practice. First Genetic Trust is headquartered in Chicago and has its research and development facilities in Rutherford, New Jersey. Further information is available at www.firstgenetic.net.

About Galileo Genomics Inc.

Galileo Genomics is a Montreal-based population genetics company with international funding, dedicated to the discovery of genes unequivocally involved in the cause of common diseases. With over 80 employees, including 20 Ph.D. and M.D. scientists, the company has developed a unique approach that will enable the identification of many or even most of the genes associated with common diseases or drug response. Galileo’s research relies on the study of genetic data collected from the Quebec Founder Population, which, because of its relatively homogeneous gene pool and extensive genetic sharing, is being used to link genes with the diseases they cause. The company has initiated substantial disease gene discovery programs in over 20 common diseases that will lead to targets for drug development programs, for the development of diagnostics and for pharmacogenomics studies. For further information please visit: www.galileogenomics.com.

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