

Press Release

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**GENIZON**  
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## **GENIZON BIOSCIENCES PUBLISHES NOVEL GENES FOR CROHN'S DISEASE**

Results of Genome-Wide Association Study in Quebec Founder Population published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*

**Montreal, Canada – September 05, 2007** – Genizon BioSciences today announced publication in this week's *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* of four novel loci in Crohn's disease, in addition to confirmation of three known Crohn's disease genes. These discoveries are derived from a genome-wide association study in the Quebec Founder Population, which provides a unique advantage for comprehensive discovery of disease genes in complex disorders. The new discoveries are expected to lead to the development of novel and more effective treatments for this disease.

Crohn's disease is an inflammatory bowel disorder with a strong genetic component. Diet and environment are also contributing factors. These complex origins have made it difficult for scientists to pinpoint the best targets for drug therapy.

"These discoveries were made in 2004 when we conducted the world's first comprehensive genome-wide association study for a common disease," commented Dr. John Hooper, CEO of Genizon.

"We have done a great deal of research and analysis since then, culminating in this publication and also leading to a comprehensive "GeneMap" of gene-gene interactions and biochemical pathways. We believe Genizon is the first organization to identify a large number of interacting genes that are linked to the root cause of a common disease."

The discoveries featured in the PNAS publication were replicated and refined in two German populations, demonstrating the applicability of findings in the Quebec Founder Population to general patient populations. The study includes large scale sequencing and maps explaining how the multiple susceptibility loci interact to result in disease.

"We were able to take Genizon's gene discoveries forward and add specific disease knowledge to these discoveries and gene-gene interactions," said Genizon's German collaborator, Professor Stefan Schreiber, Director of the Institute for Clinical Molecular Biology at the University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein. "These discoveries provide new and exciting information on how tissue repair, epithelial defence and immune response may be targeted producing more effective therapies. They open the door to truly understand the mechanisms of the disease and how therapies ideally should work."

Genizon has identified additional genes that complement the genes in the PNAS article. These and their interactions are also under study for the development of novel treatments for Crohn's disease.

## **About Genizon BioSciences**

Genizon BioSciences Inc., founded in 1999, is the only source for GeneMaps—comprehensive maps of genes, genetic markers, biochemical pathways and drug targets that are unequivocally involved in causing human disease—accelerating the development of safer, more effective medicines. GeneMaps also lead to the development of predictive diagnostics that facilitate personalized medicine. Genizon's proprietary, automated gene discovery platform using genome-wide association studies involving thousands of members of the Quebec Founder Population provides unprecedented understanding of the genetic origins and mechanisms of common diseases, resulting in the best possible drug targets and genetic markers. The company's GeneMaps provide pharmaceutical partners with intellectual property that creates opportunities for leadership in many therapeutic areas by bringing to market better treatments that address the root causes of diseases. Genizon is conducting gene discovery programs in more than 25 common diseases. Genizon also provides high throughput, high quality SNP genotyping, genetic analysis, gene expression and pharmacogenomics services to academic institutions, research organizations and the biopharmaceutical industry.

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