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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Carrie James
Human BioMolecular
Research Institute
San Diego, CA 92121
(858) 458-9305 x 106
cjames@hbri.org

Scientists Study Phosphatase Enzyme and Cancer

San Diego, Calif. (May 3, 2010) – Scientists at the Human BioMolecular Research Institute in San Diego, CA in collaboration with Dr. José Luis Millán at Sanford Children's Health Research Center, Dr. Eduard Sargienko and Dr. Thomas Chung at the Burnham Center for Chemical Genomics, and other scientists from The Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute have studied the relationship between a phosphatase enzyme found in the body and certain cancers that develop when someone shows an increased amount of this enzyme.

Placental Alkaline Phosphatase (PLAP) is an enzyme found in high levels during pregnancy and in a variety of human cancers, including testicular and ovarian cancers. So far no reports have appeared that correlates the presence of the PLAP enzyme and these cancers. One way to understand its role is to find a switch that can "turn off" the enzyme so scientists can examine the biological result. HBRI developed small molecule inhibitors of PLAP that are able to turn off the PLAP enzyme without affecting closely related enzymes. These inhibitors will be used as tools by biologists to elucidate the role that the PLAP enzyme plays in cancer and to potentially develop cancer-preventing drugs.

About HBRI: The Human BioMolecular Research Institute is a non-profit research institute conducting basic research focused on unlocking biological and chemical principles related to diseases of the human brain, cardiovascular disease and cancer. The institute conducts fundamental studies of central nervous system disorders, heart disease and cancer and translates findings into new drug development to address human illness. In addition, the institute promotes

scientific learning through community service and public access by disseminating information and sharing research with collaborators, colleagues and the public. For more information, visit www.HBRI.org.

About Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute: Sanford-Burnham Institute for Medical Research is dedicated to discovering the fundamental molecular causes of disease and devising innovative therapies of tomorrow.

Sanford-Burnham utilizes a unique, collaborative approach to medical research and has established major research programs in cancer, neurodegeneration, diabetes, and infectious, inflammatory, and childhood diseases. The Institute is especially known for its world-class capabilities in stem cell research and drug discovery technologies.