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NEW FUNDING FOR PROTEOMICS IN MANITOBA



The John Buhler Research Centre at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg

APRIL, 2002 – WINNIPEG, MB – Proteomics is a rapidly growing sector of biotechnology that studies the proteins of living organisms. The study of 500,000 human proteins encoded by about 30,000 genes and their behaviour in different environments is a valuable resource for potential medical therapies. The international proteomics market is anticipated to grow from about \$700-million in 1999 to \$5.8-billion in 2005. Manitoba's strength in this biotechnology sector was recently reinforced with a \$122,000 contribution to the Manitoba Centre for Proteomics by the Manitoba government and \$35,000 from California-based Ciphergen Biosystems Inc. towards a specific area of research. The centre is currently housed in the John Buhler Research Centre at the Health Sciences Centre, employing approximately ten full-time researchers and a number of

collaborators. The lab is one of the oldest in the country focused specifically on proteomics.

The provincial funding will help improve the lab's research capabilities by facilitating the purchase of robotic and computations equipment. Ciphergen's specialty is a protein chip technology that allows the capture and cleaning of specific proteins. Their lab devices also assist in automation, a tool for potential commercialization and organizing large amounts of data acquired in research. The Ciphergen equipment will be used to identify protein biomarkers in rheumatoid arthritis, organ transplantation and premature births. The new equipment at the proteomics centre will also be of use to researchers at the Canadian Blood Services in Winnipeg studying the incidence of transplant rejection.

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