New Study Demonstrating the Intracellular Selectivity of Progenra's Novel Anti-Tumor Compound

OXFORD, UK & MALVERN, PA November 27, 2011 – Researchers at the University of Oxford and Progenra, Inc. are pleased to announce the publication of a research article entitled "Activity-Based Chemical Proteomics Accelerates Inhibitor Development for Deubiquitylating Enzymes" (Altun *et al*, Chemistry & Biology, Volume 18, Issue 11, 1401-1412, 23 November 2011) that details a novel proteomics based method to detect inhibition of intracellular deubiquitylating enzymes (DUBs). The new method utilizes LC-MS-MS to detect DUBs labeled with DUB active site inhibitors and was tested to confirm the inhibitory profile of two small molecule inhibitors, PR-619 and P022077. Data presented in the publication confirm the selective inhibition of USP7 in human cells treated with P022077, in contrast to the pan-DUB inhibition profile of the tool compound PR-619 in the same cells. Simply stated, this novel approach has validated Progenra's ability to discover an inhibitor that selectively targets cellular USP7.

Senior author, Benedikt Kessler noted that the studies were made possible by Progenra's collection of highly selective and non-selective DUB inhibitor tool compounds. Mikael Altun, the lead author stated that combining DUB active site probes with proteomics affords researchers, for the first time, the ability to generate DUB inhibition profiles and measure changes in the content of the substrates of DUBs in living cells – a key translational step in the development of new drugs for the treatment of cancer, pathogen infection and neurodegenerative disorders.

About USP7

The DUB USP7 is a well validated target for the treatment of neoplastic disease. USP7 stabilizes oncogenic proteins and promotes the degradation of tumor suppressors such as p53. Due to its broad range of oncogenic protein substrates, USP7 inhibition is predicted to be efficacious for the treatment of both p53 wild type and p53 mutant tumors.

About University of Oxford

The University of Oxford (www.ox.ac.uk), founded in the 12th century, was the first University in the English-speaking world and is at the forefront of centers of learning, teaching and research. Oxford is one of the world's most influential and international universities and attracts students from 140 countries.

About Progenra, Inc.

Founded in 2002, Progenra (www.progenra.com) seeks to discover and develop high value medicines exploiting ubiquitin pathways. Utilizing its world-class UbiPro™ Drug Discovery Platform, Progenra identifies novel modulators of ubiquitin targets as potential drugs exploiting the roles of ubiquitin in disease.

Further information please e-mail info@progenra.com