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**NEWS**

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Press Release  
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## **UMBI Announces Formation of Omic Biosystems Inc. to Commercialize DiART Technology for Large-Scale Proteomics Studies**

Baltimore, MD— UMBI announced today that a new spin-off company located in Rockville, Maryland, Omic Biosystems, Inc. has been formed to commercialize UMBI's deuterium ( $^2\text{H}$ ) isobaric amine reactive tags (DiART) technology, which facilitates the characterization and quantification of large numbers of proteins in a single experiment. Such a large-scale study of proteins, known as proteomics, represents a powerful improvement over conventional protein biochemistry where either total protein concentrations, or small numbers of individual proteins, are analyzed in each assay. The DiART technology employs novel protein tagging designs coupled with advanced sample preparation methods which are used in modern mass spectrometry measurements. The announcement was made by Dr. Theodore J. Roumel, UMBI's VP for Research, Innovation and Commercialization. This represents the second spin-off company announced by UMBI this fiscal year, the other one being the announcement of the formation of Plasmonix, Inc.

Dr. Jonathan Gottlieb, Director of Technology Transfer and Commercialization for UMBI stated: "The immediate market impact of this technology is its utility in biomarker discoveries. Its broader impact will facilitate the translation of genomic and proteomic information into relevant clinical information that can be applied to new drug discovery and clinical diagnostics."

Dr. Feng Tao, CEO and co-founder of Omic Biosystems said: “Quantitative proteomic studies will be highly significant and have high commercial value in the era of post-genomics. Omic Biosystems will develop reagents, tools and solutions to help solve important bottleneck problems in the field of proteomics. Omic Biosystems is pleased to have the opportunity to commercialize the innovative DiART technology in collaboration with its UMBI inventors.”

The DiART technology was conceptualized and developed in the laboratory of Shuwei Li, Ph.D, Assistant Professor at UMBI’s Center for Advanced Research in Biotechnology and co-founder of Omic Biosystems. Dr. Li also holds an Adjunct Assistant Professor position in the Molecular and Cell Biology Program at University of Maryland College Park. Prof. Li commented: “In my laboratory, we discovered that the DiART technology can significantly reduce the cost in quantitative proteomic studies, while maintaining high quality data and results. The formation of Omic Biosystems is an essential step in developing the market potential of this technology.”

The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) has recently awarded UMBI a TechStart grant to explore the commercial potential and aid in the development of the DiART technology. The team receiving the award includes Dr. Feng Tao, Prof. Shuwei Li, and Jonathan Gottlieb, Ph.D., M.B.A., the technology transfer manager at UMBI. In addition, Omic Biosystems has also received an SBIR Phase I award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support the development of DiART technology and its applications in biomarker discovery. Drs. Tao and Li are the principal investigators on this grant.

With research centers in Baltimore, Rockville, and College Park, UMBI, the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute, is the newest of 13 institutions forming the University System of Maryland. UMBI has more than 50 ladder-ranked faculty and a mandate to advance the biotechnology economy while preparing a well-equipped workforce. For more information visit [www.umbi.umd.edu](http://www.umbi.umd.edu).

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