



Press Release  
For Immediate Release  
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## UMBI Licenses Fully Human Therapeutic Antibody Platform to Prolias

Rockville, MD—The University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute (UMBI) today announced the exclusive licensing of a fully human antibody technology platform to Prolias, a biotechnology company working to discover and develop novel therapeutic proteins and antibodies for treatment of disease.

The announcement was made by Dr. Theodore J. Roumel, UMBI's VP for Research, Innovation and Commercialization. The new technology will extend Prolias' discovery platform, FIoNA™, by providing a platform for the creation of fully human, recombinant antibodies from diverse, endogenous antibody sources.

Joe Hernandez, Chairman of Prolias, stated "This acquisition gives Prolias access to a method of developing full human antibodies to the novel targets we have discovered via our existing FIoNA technology. This provides us with the ability to discover new targets and develop antibodies to those targets in a seamless manner."

The newly acquired technology, developed by Dr. George Lewis and colleagues at UMBI, provides Prolias with the means to generate fully human antibodies from naïve B cells *in vitro*. The technology has broad applications in therapeutics, diagnostics and laboratory research. Advantages of the *in vitro* system are that it generates fully human antibodies without direct immunization of any patient or

human individual, and antibodies can be created from readily accessible tissues such as human peripheral blood. Fully human antibodies avoid the unwanted responses against foreign antibodies, such as those containing mouse proteins. Monoclonal antibodies can be generated against dangerous pathogens, toxins or cancer cells without exposing any human individual to these substances. Also, the efficacy of human responses to vaccines can be tested *in vitro*.

Dr. Jonathan Gottlieb, Director of Technology Transfer and Commercialization at UMBI, stated, "This technology has several potentially important applications as therapeutic agents, as paired diagnostics, in vaccine screening and as reagents for biomedical research. In the realm of antibody therapeutics, fully human antibodies are the preferable modality. This novel approach offers an alternative to phage libraries".

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About Prolias:

Prolias, located in Rockville, MD, is a privately held biotechnology company dedicated to the discovery and development of novel therapeutic proteins and antibodies. Additionally, Prolias sells protein focused reagents and provides services to the protein research community. Additional information on Prolias is available from Ryan Donnelly, Marketing Associate, at (301) 517-0398, or at [www.proliastechnologies.com](http://www.proliastechnologies.com).

About UMBI:

With research centers in Baltimore, Rockville, and College Park, 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).