

AMDeC Member Institutions

Albert Einstein College of Medicine
American Museum of Natural History
Beth Israel Medical Center
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Columbia-Presbyterian Campus of New York
Presbyterian Hospital
Columbia University College of Physicians
and Surgeons
Greater New York Hospital Association
Hospital for Special Surgery
Joan & Sanford I. Weill Medical College of
Cornell University
Lenox Hill Hospital
Maimonides Medical Center
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Montefiore Medical Center
Mount Sinai-NYU Medical Center and Health
System
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Nassau County Medical Center
New York Blood Center
New York-Cornell Campus of New York
Presbyterian Hospital
New York Eye and Ear Infirmary
New York Medical College
New York University School of Medicine
North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health
System
Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center
Rockefeller University
Saint Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center
Sisters of Charity Health Care System
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center
State University of New York
SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn
SUNY at Buffalo, School of Medicine &
Biomedical Sciences
SUNY at Stony Brook, University Hospital
and Medical Center
SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse
Strang Cancer Prevention Center
University of Rochester School of Medicine

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AMDeC BIO SNPs

Maurice R. Greenberg, Chairman
Maria K. Mitchell, Ph.D., President

THE AMDeC STORY:

BRINGING TOGETHER THE ACADEMIC HEALTH COMMUNITY TO ADVANCE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

*AMDeC, LLC**, the *Academic Medicine Development Company*, represents an unprecedented research and business alliance within the New York health and sciences community. In spring 1997, leaders in New York's biomedical research industry formed *AMDeC* to harness the talent represented in its member institutions and to lay the foundation for a world-class biotechnology enterprise.

As we begin a new era in scientific research and discovery, *AMDeC's* member institutions recognized that they could avoid costly and inefficient duplication of precious capital resources, and accelerate the pace of medical breakthroughs and scientific discoveries, by fostering unique collaborations. Through *AMDeC*, these institutions are working together to advance New York's biomedical research community in four very focused ways:

1) Collaborative research projects: *AMDeC* capitalizes on the strengths of its 34 member institutions by initiating large-scale, collaborative basic science and clinical research projects.

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* AMDeC LLC and its affiliates, AMDeC Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit corporation which receives and manages grants, and AMDeC Policy Group, a nonprofit corporation which pursues research funds and policies, are collectively referred to in this newsletter as "AMDeC."

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Reader:

Welcome to the premiere issue of AMDeC's newsletter, BIO SNPs. Through BIO SNPs, we plan to keep you up-to-date and informed of the many collaborative initiatives underway with AMDeC's 34 member institutions. As AMDeC embarks on its fourth year, we can certainly be proud of the many collaborations and structures put into place to capitalize on the technologies available to advance medical science.

Communicating our progress becomes paramount in an industry that is moving at lightning speed, both on the scientific and economic development fronts. To that end, our commitment to developing interactive tools to communicate activities begins with this newsletter. You can also visit our website, www.amdec.org, or contact AMDeC's new Vice President for Communications, Dr. Peter Preziosi, at (212) 218-5634 or e-mail him at Preziosi@amdecny.com to discuss AMDeC's communications efforts.

In a new millennium and poised on the brink of a new scientific era, let us work together in advancing biomedical research and technology in New York State.

Sincerely,

Maria K. Mitchell, Ph.D.
President

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2) Development of New York's research infrastructure: *AMDeC* oversees a strategic initiative for human genetics research that envisions core facilities to house shared equipment and technology for scientists at member institutions conducting genetic, genomic, and proteomic research.

3) Talent recruitment: Through its Fund for Young Investigators, *AMDeC* provides grants to investigators from its member institutions to attract the nation's best scientists to New York.

4) Development of business ventures: *AMDeC* creates synergies between New York's scientific

community and the biotechnology industry by structuring business opportunities that benefit its member institutions.

AMDeC's strength comes from the vision of its 34 member institutions in creating a more cohesive and unified approach to biomedical research. Once *AMDeC's* mission is realized, scientists will have better access to state-of-the-art technologies, and the biotechnology industry, as a whole, will benefit from New York's streamlined system for advancing genetic and genomic research. New York State's ultimate payoff becomes economic growth and scientific developments that bolster healthier communities.

AMDeC's STRATEGIC INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN GENETICS RESEARCH

The imminent completion of the Human Genome Project – an international effort to sequence the more than 100,000 human genes – opens the door to new research opportunities for *AMDeC* member institutions. Learning the human gene sequence will enable scientists to better understand how genes function and how they interact with environmental and behavioral factors to influence disease processes.

As part of its efforts to position New York in this new frontier of biomedical research, *AMDeC* has developed a five-year strategic initiative for human genetics research. The strategic plan was developed collaboratively by scientists from a number of *AMDeC* member institutions:

Albert Einstein College of Medicine
American Museum of Natural History
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
Joan & Sanford I. Weill Medical College of
Cornell University

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
New York University School of Medicine
Rockefeller University

The implementation phase will involve institutions throughout the state and will place New York squarely in the forefront of the most important biomedical research effort of the new millennium. As a first priority, New York must build a statewide technology infrastructure comprising several "core facilities" that can be shared by investigators from *AMDeC* member institutions. These core facilities include:

- **Genetics Core Facility** for conducting DNA sequence comparisons;
- **Gene Expression Core Facility** for producing and analyzing gene profiling data to understand gene expression patterns and how they relate to disease;
- **Proteomics Core Facility** for producing proteins and understanding the role of gene products in human disease processes;
- **Bioinformatics Core Facility** to serve as a centralized repository of state-of-the-art hardware, informatics software, and expertise in informatics software development and programming.

Once these cores are established, *AMDeC* will pursue other elements of its strategic plan including promoting the development of the next generation of genetic research technologies.

AMDeC SUCCESSFULLY BROKERS DEAL FOR DISCOUNTED PRICES ON DNA SEQUENCING CHIPS

Following several months of negotiations, *AMDeC* completed its first preferred purchasing deal with *Affymetrix, Inc.* on behalf of 11 member institutions. The deal allows *AMDeC* members to purchase the **Affymetrix' GeneChip®** technology and related services at significant discounts. The **GeneChip®** technology enables researchers to accelerate genetic analysis by minimizing labor, data analysis time and total time required to run complex genotyping studies. This technology allows scientists to study the links between polymorphisms and disease, the mechanisms that lead to disease, and patient response to treatment.

This deal represents the first of many business arrangements for *AMDeC* member institutions. By leveraging its collective institutions, *AMDeC* can structure other business opportunities to help drive down costs and therefore foster more cost-effective and far reaching research.



Future BIO SNPs newsletters will feature an "AMDeC MEMBERS IN THE NEWS" column, highlighting member institutions' biomedical research and other important activities and achievements. We welcome newsworthy items in the form of press announcements via fax (212) 218-5644, e-mail at Preziosi@amdecny.com or mailed to *AMDeC* headquarters, 45 Rockefeller Plaza, Suite 918, New York, N.Y. 10111.

THE NEW YORK CANCER PROJECT: RECRUITMENT AND ENROLLMENT EFFORTS UNDERWAY

AMDeC's **New York Cancer Project**, one of the largest population-based epidemiological studies ever conducted in the United States, has begun recruitment and enrollment for its pilot phase. Under the direction of Principal Investigator **Dr. Thomas Rohan**, Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Social Medicine at *Albert Einstein College of Medicine*, this project will lead to important new knowledge about the interaction of genetic and lifestyle factors – particularly diet and physical activity – in the development of different cancers and other complex diseases.

Over \$12 million in initial support for the Project came from the City of New York and private foundations. During its 2-year pilot phase,

New York Cancer Project recruiters plan to enroll 17,000 individuals from the greater New York tri-state area, between the ages of 30 and 64. A major recruitment target includes diverse cultural and socioeconomic groups, especially the populations traditionally under represented in biomedical research. Recruitment efforts are based on a variety of out-reach and education techniques, relying heavily on community-based organizations with strong ties to culturally diverse populations.

Enrollment sites to date include:

- *Beth Israel Cancer Center*
- *Maimonides Medical Center*
- *Sisters of Charity Health Care System*
- *Mount Sinai Medical Center*



Once fully operational, six academic health centers, in conjunction with community satellites, will collect baseline data from study participants through face-to-face interviews and blood samples. Blood samples will be transferred to a biorepository specifically developed for the **New York Cancer Project**, newly constructed at *North Shore/Long Island Jewish Health System*.

A unique feature of the biorepository will be a highly flexible storage system for DNA samples, using semi-automatic robotics, to both store and retrieve large samples in a short time period. This permits quick and flexible response to requests from investigators for DNA samples, allowing for hundreds of thousands of genetic studies to be done on the samples.

AMDeC's **New York Cancer Project** will become a major public health resource for the next century. The biorepository of DNA on a large population-based cohort will allow for future studies on new markers or genes to be undertaken at minimal additional cost. In the end, the **New York Cancer Project** promises to add public value to participating in large-scale medical research projects and inform the current state of knowledge about the causes of cancer and cancer risk.

NY ELCAP RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE NEW YORK COMMUNITY TRUST

AMDeC recently received a two-year grant of \$520,000 from *the New York Community Trust* – the largest non-designated gift the Trust has ever given – for the **New York Early Lung Cancer Action Project (NY ELCAP)**. The project, led by **Dr. Claudia Henschke** of the *Weill Medical College of Cornell University*, will test the effectiveness of using computed tomography (CT) scanning technology in detecting early stage lung cancer in individuals at high risk for developing this disease. A group of AMDeC's 34 member institutions statewide will participate.

An initial study conducted by **Dr. Henschke** – receiving widespread attention in the scientific community and press – produced preliminary data indicating that CT screening is a highly effective method for detecting lung cancer at its most treatable stages. This seed grant from *the New York Community Trust* enables AMDeC to establish the Project's coordinating center, to begin recruitment and screening activities, and to become part of a larger international collaboration on screening for lung cancer.

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AMDeC ANNOUNCES YEAR 2000 YOUNG INVESTIGATORS AWARDS

To help advance its goal to attract and retain the best young biomedical researchers to the New York area, AMDeC began funding young investigators in 1999. Based on nominations and a competitive peer review process, newly independent scientists affiliated with AMDeC member institutions receive "seed" grants – about \$50,000 per year for several years – to pursue promising avenues of research. This early support enables some of New York's most talented young researchers to obtain critical preliminary data that can leverage significant additional funding from other sources as their careers progress.

Along with continuing grants for the five 1999 recipients, this year's Young Investigators awards go to:

Carlos Simmerling, Ph.D. <i>State University of New York at Stony Brook</i>	<u>Computer Simulations: A New Tool for Breast Cancer</u>
Pengbo Zhou, Ph.D. <i>Joan & Sanford I. Weill Medical College of Cornell University</i>	<u>"Protein Knock-out and Cancer Therapy"</u>
Daniel C. Weinstein, Ph.D. <i>Mount Sinai School of Medicine</i>	<u>In Vivo Regulation of Src Kinase Function</u>

Thanks to the support from the *Entertainment Industry Foundation* and the *Revlon Run/Walk for Women*, the **Fund for Young Investigators** continues to encourage a new pipeline into New York's scientific community.

PARTICIPATE IN REVLON'S RUN/WALK FOR WOMEN:

PROCEEDS DEDICATED TO CLINICAL SERVICE AND RESEARCH FOR WOMEN'S CANCERS

This year's *Revlon Run/Walk for Women* takes place on **Saturday, May 6, 2000**. Sponsored by the *Entertainment Industry Foundation*, this annual event helps raise funds for women's cancers. **Mr. Ronald Perelman**, Chairman of Revlon, and **Ms. Lilly Tartikoff**, founder of the *Revlon/UCLA*

Women's Cancer Research Program chairs the event nationally. Forty percent of the proceeds from this event will be dedicated to **AMDeC's Fund for Young Investigators** to sponsor research on breast and ovarian cancers. Additional proceeds contribute to academic health

centers and community based organizations providing clinical services, counseling, and outreach programs related to women's cancers. For information on how to participate in the event, visit www.revlonrunwalk.com or contact **Ashley Williams (212) 218-5637**.