



**BioMarker**  
STRATEGIES

## ***News Release***

---

**Contact:**

**Scott Allocco, President**

**410-522-1008**

**[sallocco@biomarkerstrategies.com](mailto:sallocco@biomarkerstrategies.com)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 8am

### **BioMarker Strategies and The Wistar Institute Use Functional Signaling Profiles to Identify Pathway-based Melanoma Subtypes**

Tampa, Florida—November 10 —BioMarker Strategies presented data today at the International Melanoma Congress demonstrating that its automated SnapPath™ live tumor cell platform enabled unique signal transduction-based stratification of BRAF positive melanoma. Through its pre-clinical collaboration with The Wistar Institute, scientists at BioMarker Strategies used the automated SnapPath™ platform to expose live cellular suspensions of melanoma cell lines to signal transduction modulators to generate phosphoprotein-based functional signaling profiles.

“Functional signaling profiles derived from live cells give unique insight into the behavior of signal transduction networks and allow pathway-based stratifications to guide targeted therapy selection that are not possible using dead, fixed samples,” said Dr. Douglas Clark, CEO of BioMarker Strategies. “While the recent FDA approval of the BRAF inhibitor, vemurafenib, is very exciting news for melanoma patients, the critical question now is to determine which additional targeted therapies resistant patients need next to keep their cancer in check. Our preclinical data suggest that the SnapPath™ live tumor cell testing approach has the potential to help answer this important question.”

In the scientific studies, it was found that Functional Signaling Profiles changed dramatically in cell lines that had acquired resistance to BRAF inhibitors. In addition, the Functional Signaling Profiles in the BRAF resistant cells provided important biological insight into the mechanism of resistance. A subset of these cell lines was found to have reactivated the pathway originally blocked by the BRAF inhibitor, suggesting that an alternative drug would be necessary to block this pathway. In another subset of the resistant cell lines, the BRAF inhibitor continued to block the expected pathway; however, these cell lines appear to have activated an alternate signaling pathway, bypassing the BRAF inhibition, suggesting that a combination of two targeted drugs would be required to treat such patients.

The results of this scientific collaboration support the utility of the live tumor cell SnapPath™ platform in preclinical and clinical drug development, as well as its potential to guide targeted therapy selection in humans, including patients who acquire resistance to BRAF inhibitors. The company is undertaking additional studies, in collaboration with The Wistar Institute, to identify how these melanoma subtypes respond to different targeted drug therapies or drug combination therapies.

News Release

BioMarker Strategies has developed the SnapPath™ system, using significant funding support from the National Cancer Institute, to enable next-generation biomarker tests for cancer. SnapPath™ incorporates an automated, live-tumor-cell processing device with first-in-class, functional, ex vivo biomarker tests to inform clinical decision making for targeted cancer therapeutics. The SnapPath™ system is designed to stimulate a patient's live tumor cells to obtain a Functional Signaling Profile (FSP) of the signal transduction network that is not possible using static genomic biomarkers from dead, fixed tumor tissue. The company is located at the Johns Hopkins Science + Technology Park in East Baltimore. For more information about BioMarker Strategies, please refer to [www.biomarkerstrategies.com](http://www.biomarkerstrategies.com).

The Wistar Institute is an international leader in biomedical research with special expertise in cancer research and vaccine development. Established in Philadelphia in 1892, the Institute works actively to ensure that research advances move from the laboratory to the clinic as quickly as possible. On the Web at [www.wistar.org](http://www.wistar.org).

# # #

*Some of the information in this release contains our projections or other forward-looking statements regarding future events. We wish to caution you that these statements are only predictions and actual events or results may differ materially. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve certain risks and uncertainties, which are difficult to predict. Therefore, actual future results and trends may differ materially from what is forecast in forward-looking statements due to a variety of factors. Forward-looking statements included herein are made as of the date hereof, and we undertake no obligation to update publicly such statements to reflect subsequent events or circumstances. Actual results could differ materially from anticipated results.*

# # #