



## **AlfaGene adopts Chikujee's NanoIntegration® Technology to develop innovative transfection reagents**

**Germantown, MD, and Gaithersburg, MD July 21, 2007**

AlfaGene and Chikujee Therapeutics have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) whereby Alfagene will utilize Chikujee's NanoBindi® Technology as a core technology in certain research projects. One of the earliest projects will focus on a broad study across different cell line panels for efficient integration of nucleic acid based products. This technology will allow AlfaGene researchers to develop reproducible, non-viral based, optimized transfection protocols for the cell lines included in the National Cancer Institute's drug discovery panel. This will allow the study of gene control in the most extensively studied cell lines in the world.

"One of our goals is to develop high-throughput research tools that focus on why disease occurs and to rapidly apply this knowledge to help patients. To that end we recognize the need to understand cellular changes across many cell types. Chikujee's NanoIntegration® System is an important tool that will help provide the necessary capability," said Dr. Javed Siddiqi, Chief Operating Officer of Alfagene.

"The Alfagene's comprehensive, high-throughput approach to research makes it an ideal collaborative partner for Chikujee's technology. It is our goal to enable our customers to genetically manipulate whatever cell types they consider the best experimental model. This collaboration is a natural outcome of aligned objectives," said Arkesh Mehta, founder and CEO, Chikujee Therapeutics. The selection of NanoBindi™ platform for development of innovative transfection reagents program by Alfagene provides additional validation for multifunctional nature of Chikujee's technology for a wide variety of life science applications.

### **About AlfaGene**

AlfaGene is a privately held biotechnology company focused on offering customized services such as protein expression and purification for research and therapeutic applications. Using "bag technology" we can scale up to 100-200 liter cultures producing 3-5 grams of proteins. These proteins can be used for therapeutic or vaccination purposes. AlfaGene also offers endotoxin free gram quantities of plasmid DNA manufacturing services for transfection and vaccination purposes.

Recently AlfaGene has developed various *E. coli* competent cells harboring chaperones which will help expression and folding of hard to express proteins. AlfaGene is looking for strategic alliance for marketing these products. Other key products of AlfaGene are: protein lysates, premade western blots, RNA, mRNA, cDNA from human normal and cancer specimens.

AlfaGene was founded in 2008 by researchers from Harvard, MIT, Invitrogen/ Life Technologies. Dr. Javed Siddiqi has over 25 years of research and management experience in Biotechnology and Molecular biology. For more information please visit [www.alfagene.com](http://www.alfagene.com).

### About Chikujee Therapeutics

Chikujee Therapeutics is a privately held NanoMedicine company focused on developing therapeutic targeted nanoparticles to concentrate drug at the intended site of action while minimizing systemic exposure, thereby improving efficacy and reducing off-target effects. The company's platform is broadly applicable across therapeutic areas with the initial product development efforts focused in cancer. The company anticipates initiating clinical trials for their first product in 2009. The company's technology platform is an ideal candidate to become the product engine for next generation of Blockbusters, without the traditional burden of excessive research and development costs.

Chikujee was founded in 2008 by a pioneer in the field of multi-functional, therapeutic targeted nanoparticles, Dr. Arkesh Mehta, an innovative biopharmaceutical entrepreneur. The company licensed a large patent estate on a worldwide exclusive basis from Avanti Therapeutics covering the scientific founders' work in multi-functional, targeted nanoparticle therapeutics. For more information, please visit the company's web site at [www.Chikujee.com](http://www.Chikujee.com).

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