

University Health Network Microarray Centre and Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute Microarray Facility Announce Collaboration

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Toronto, ON: Two members of the Toronto Microarray Consortium, the University Health Network Microarray Centre (UHNMAC) and the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute Microarray Facility (SLRIMF) have officially announced collaborative efforts aimed to consolidate the infrastructure and technical expertise of both groups and to create the next generation of applications of array-based technologies for their users. The collaboration between the UHNMAC and SLRIMF will offer microarray users, of both of their sites, access to more microarray products, services, and support than originally provided by each group alone. Conveniently, microarray customers will be able to place orders for products from their current contact site and receive the required technical expertise specific to their microarray projects.

The UHNMAC will handle service projects involving UHNMAC/SLRIMF array products and the Affymetrix and Agilent platforms, and continue R&D efforts developing novel microarray applications. The SLRIMF will be able to then provide additional interaction to their customers during the development of novel array applications and for more hands-on research projects.

The UHNMAC (www.microarrays.ca) was established in 1998 and worked with a local engineering company to develop the arrayer robot that is now sold commercially as the BioRad VersArray ChipWriter Pro. Since 2000, the UHNMAC has provided arrays, training and support to over 700 labs in 27 different countries and over 100,000 arrays have been printed and distributed. UHNMAC offers Human, Mouse, and Yeast cDNA microarrays, Human and Mouse CpG Island microarrays, and, due to the recent collaboration with SLRIMF, now prints Mouse, Zebrafish, *C. elegans*, focused Human and Yeast oligonucleotide microarrays. Genomic Services (including Expression Profiling, ChIP-on-Chip, Differential Methylation, Array CGH) on Affymetrix, Agilent, and cDNA microarray platforms, data analysis, and custom microarray and clone production is also available. Neil Winegarden is the Head of Operations at the UHNMAC, located on the 9th floor of the Toronto Medical Discovery Tower, MaRS, 101 College Street in Toronto.

The SLRIMF (www.mshri.on.ca/microarray) was established in January 2001 at the Mount Sinai Hospital and was the group that pioneered Canadian production of long DNA oligonucleotide microarrays. The SLRIMF has been focusing on customisation of DNA microarray applications and on promoting cost-effective microarray use for model organisms. Their recently developed applications include the spotted unmodified 20mer yeast universal barcode arrays. The SLRIMF also developed the first *C. elegans* long oligonucleotide array in the world and were the leader in the microarray effort to track the molecular evolution of the SARS Coronavirus during the 2003 Toronto outbreak using high-density whole-genome resequencing chips. Chi Yip Ho is the Director of the SLRIMF, located on the 9th floor of the Mount Sinai Hospital, Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute, 600 University Avenue in Toronto.