

PRESS RELEASE

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Foundation Announces Collaboration on Clinical Trial Targeting Cardiovascular Risks *Patient Enrollment Efforts Target At-Risk African Americans*

Washington, DC – The National Minority Health Month Foundation (The Foundation) and deCODE Genetics, Inc. announced today a collaborative effort to support patient enrollment in the Leukotrienes in African American Patients with Coronary Artery Disease trial (LTCAD study). This multi-center trial is unique by focusing on a subgroup of patients with prior unstable angina or acute MI who have the highest identifiable risk of heart attack. Recent research suggest that some patients of a combined African and European lineage carry a variant of the gene encoding leukotriene A4 hydrolase (LTA4 hydrolase) that puts them at a three-fold greater risk for a heart attack. DG-031, licensed by deCODE Genetics, Inc. is designed to block the negative effects of the variant gene. The LTCAD study will examine the long-term safety and efficacy of DG-031. The trial is being conducted under a Special Protocol Assessment (SPA) with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The Foundation has observed that African Americans suffer disproportionately from cardiovascular events with the highest overall mortality rate and the highest out-of-hospital coronary death rate of any ethnic group in the United States, particularly at younger ages. There is a real need to understand any environmental or biological causes for these differences. The Foundation will work to encourage enrollment of high-risk African American patients with a history of recent heart attacks. It is anticipated that the LTCAD study will provide some guidance as to the underpinning of these disparities. Additionally, the opportunity to have African Americans selected as the study population is an exciting reversal of the norm in which African Americans and other minority groups are underrepresented in clinical trials.

Since the at-risk version of the LTA4 hydrolase gene transcends race, it is hope that through this trial a medical benefit might be found for all patients who have the variant gene. “This could not only be an important milestone in bridging the healthcare gap, but it may suggest to others that conducting a small and highly sensitive trial in a high-risk population may offer the greatest possibilities of success ” said Gary A. Puckrein, Ph.D., Executive Director of the National Minority Health Month Foundation. “Since minority populations lead the nation in the incidence and prevalence of so many chronic diseases, yet are so underrepresented in clinical trials, it is our sincere hope that the LTCAD study

offers a new model in which this high-risk community is recruited into trials and the results of those trials are generalized to the large population.”

About the National Minority Health Month Foundation:

The National Minority Health Month Foundation (www.nmhm.org), a nonprofit organization founded in 1998, was established to strengthen national and local efforts to eliminate the disproportionate burden of premature death and preventable illness in racial and ethnic minorities and other special populations through the use of evidence-based, data-driven initiatives. The Foundation has developed a comprehensive relational data platform

for identifying the prevalence of health-status and health-care disparities at the zip-code level. This centralized data warehouse allows the Foundation to house vital statistics; demographic, environmental, claims, prescription-drug, and clinical-laboratory values; health-care access points, and other data. The Foundation is thus able to measure and forecast health status in small geographic areas, evaluate the impact of specific interventions, monitor changes in health outcomes, and serve as a valuable resource for the health-disparities movement.

About deCODE

deCODE genetics (NASDAQ:DCGN) is a global leader in applying human genetics to develop drugs for common diseases. Our population approach has enabled us to discover and target key biological pathways involved in conditions ranging from heart attack to cancer. We are turning these discoveries into new medicine to better treat and prevent many of the biggest challenges to public health. deCODE is delivering on the promise of the new genetics. Visit us on the web at www.decode.com.

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