



## New Senior Execs Named to Company

BOSTON, Jan. 14, 2008 – Progenika Biopharma, the European molecular diagnostics company, today announced that it has named Richard H. Lussier as Chief Operating Officer and General Manager. Ignacio Martinez was named Chief Financial Officer and Dr. Duncan Whitney, Chief Scientific Officer.

Progenika Inc., the U.S. subsidiary of Progenika Biopharma, currently is developing and marketing DNA tests for predicting drug response and for the diagnosis and prognosis of genetic and complex disease.

Richard H. Lussier has more than 20 years of experience in the biotechnology industry. He spent over 13 years at Applera Corporation where he held a number of technical, marketing and management roles with Applied Biosystems and Celera Genomics, including general management of Applera's Japanese subsidiary.

Mr. Lussier then worked for a series of entrepreneurial ventures where his role was establishing global sales, support, and marketing organizations. He also established subsidiary companies in Japan and Europe in support of his global management responsibilities. He was most recently at Solexa Inc., acquired by Illumina in January 2007, where he established a worldwide field organization to sell, service and support the Solexa Genome Analyzer.

Duncan Whitney has expertise in developing and commercializing novel biotechnology products and diagnostic assays over the last 20 years for a variety of innovative technology development organizations.

Prior to joining Progenika, Inc., Dr. Whitney was the vice president of research and development at U.S. Genomics, developing single-molecule detection systems and a variety of research and diagnostic assays. Prior to that he was Vice President, Technology Development, at Exact Sciences, where he was responsible for commercializing novel DNA-based colon cancer diagnostics tests. Dr. Whitney also held a variety of positions at PerSeptive Biosystems (now part of Applied Biosystems, Inc). He received his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Colby College and his PhD from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Ignacio Martinez joined Progenika in Spain as Chief Financial Officer in 2005 after many years in the international venture capital industry, investing in high technology companies, particularly in biotechnology. Martinez relocated to Boston as member of the executive team to set up the U.S. subsidiary.

Mr. Martinez joined Progenika from Seed Capital, an institutional venture capital fund located in Bilbao, Spain. Prior to this, and after having obtained an International MBA from the Instituto de Empresa in Spain and Germany, Mr. Martinez spent several years working for Najeti Capital, an international private venture capital firm where he was a founder member of the team that set up the company's Madrid offices. During this period he gained extensive experience of high technology industries on both strategic and operational issues. Mr. Martinez graduated from Deusto University where he studied Business Administration.

Progenika, Inc., was formed in Boston in 2007. Its mission is twofold: To commercialize products in North America that have been previously validated and marketed in Europe, and to apply its expertise in molecular biology and genetics to develop products specific to the needs of the North American market.

The company seeks to obtain CLIA certification early in 2008 and is actively seeking collaboration with commercial and academic partners in development of genetic-based diagnostic and prognostic tools.

Progenika Biopharma S.A. is a privately owned firm founded in 2000 to develop tools for personalized medicine. The company developed and clinically validated LIPOchip®, a microarray for the diagnosis of Familial Hypercholesterolemia. Introduced in 2004, it was the first CE-marked DNA microarray for routine clinical diagnosis in Europe.

Since then, the company has introduced three new DNA genotyping tests:

PHARMAchip®, a tool for predicting drug response in a broad array of metabolism pathways to improve safety and effectiveness of therapeutic strategies; BLOODchip®, to improve the safety of transfusions by genetically characterizing blood group antigens of both donors and recipients; and, FIBROchip®, which identifies patient genotypes associated with the most aggressive forms of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Fibromyalgia.

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## **Lussier Names Progenika COO, Fischette Joins Enzo Biochem, McKusick Wins Genomics Prize, and More**

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*By a GenomeWeb staff reporter*

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**NEW YORK (GenomeWeb News) – Progenika Biopharma has named Richard Lussier to the posts of chief operating officer and general manager. Ignacio Martinez has been tapped as chief financial officer and Duncan Whitney is the new chief scientific officer.**

**Lussier spent 13 years at Applera in marketing and management with Applied Biosystems and Celera Genomics, and he recently worked with Solexa and Illumina.**

**Martinez started at Progenika in Spain as CFO in 2005, and he previously was involved in high tech and biotech venture capital investing.**

**Whitney formerly was VP of research and development at US Genomics and was VP of technology development at Exact Sciences.**