

NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***US Research Centre uses 2D Gel Image Analysis Software
To Rapidly Assess the Effects of Vitamin E on Prostate Cancer***

Cambridge, UK: Syngene, a world-leading manufacturer of image analysis solutions, today announced that scientists at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) have detected proteins associated with cytotoxic effects of Vitamin E on prostate cancer cells, using Dymension, Syngene's innovative 2D gel image analysis software.

Researchers in the Departments of Pediatrics/Chemistry at ETSU are using Dymension to rapidly analyse 2D gel images of silver stained proteins derived from a prostate cancer (LNCaP) cell line treated with delta-tocotrienol, (a form of Vitamin E). From the analysis, they have isolated a number of proteins that are significantly up or down-regulated, which when identified, could provide critical information for the design of more effective drugs for the treatment and prevention of prostate cancer.

Mr Christian Mbangha Muenyi, Research Assistant in the Pediatrics/Chemistry Departments at ETSU explained: "In many studies, it has been shown that Vitamin E is cytotoxic to some prostate cancer cell lines, so we want to find out what is happening at the molecular level during this induced cell death. We have been using a proteomics approach with 2D gels for several years but found with our previous analysis software it was difficult and time consuming to manipulate gel images to obtain meaningful data."

Mr Muenyi continued: "This is why we switched to using Dymension two years ago. Since then analysis has been more straightforward and this coupled with excellent technical support we have had from Syngene has helped us with rapidly detecting a number of interesting proteins. In fact, we are so pleased with Dymension we are going to upgrade the software's capability to allow us to perform DIGE analysis."

Syngene is a division of the Synoptics Group. Registered in England. No 1874861

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Paula Maia, Vice President of Sales, Syngene US stated: "We are delighted to see our Dymension software's performance exceeds ETSU scientists' expectations. The software's use in such critical pre-clinical studies demonstrates it can provide 2D protein gel analysis of exceptional speed and accuracy, making Dymension ideally suited to any gel-based proteomics cancer research project."

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Note to Editors

About Syngene

Syngene is a world-leading supplier of integrated imaging solutions for analysis and documentation of gel-based information. Syngene's systems are used by more than 10,000 research organisations and over 50,000 individual scientists world-wide and include many of the world's top pharmaceutical companies and major research institutes.

Syngene, founded in 1997 is a division of the Cambridge based Synoptics Group. The Group's other divisions, Syncroscopy and Synbiosis, specialise in digital imaging solutions for microscopy and microbial applications respectively. Synoptics currently employs 40 people in its UK and subsidiary operation in Frederick, USA.

About ETSU

East Tennessee State University (ETSU) is a Carnegie Foundation-designated doctoral/research-intensive institution which pursues its mission through a student-centered community of learning reflecting high standards and promoting a balance of liberal arts and professional preparation.

As one of six universities governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents and the sixth largest system of higher education in the USA, ETSU serves some 12,000 students and offers almost 200 programs of study in eight colleges and school.