



ONAMI Grant Funds Merger of Molecular Biology and Microtechnology

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Floragenex, a Eugene, Oregon, based genetic research services firm, has received a \$250,000 grant from the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI) to fund the initial development of a microtechnology based DNA sequencing sample preparation system.

The intricate demands of preparing DNA for sequencing are proving to be a challenge for researchers in all fields who want to harness the amazing power of next generation sequencing systems. With the costs ranging from a few thousand dollars to over ten thousand dollars for a sequencing run, saving time and ensuring the quality of a sample library before you send it away to a core facility or a sequencing vendor is a straightforward value proposition.

Floragenex, through hundreds of successful applications of its Restriction site Associated DNA (RAD) marker system, has developed a unique perspective on the demands of sample prep for next-generation sequencing. Leveraging this expertise and tapping into the resources available at the Microproducts Breakthrough Institute at Oregon State University, and within other ONAMI associated companies, the project aims to design and build a sample preparation instrument that can improve the reliability and increase the consistency of library preparation for researchers using next-gen sequencing platforms.

“It’s clear from what we’ve learned at Floragenex, and from our discussions with people who run sequencing centers around the country, that there is a need to improve sample preparation for these very sensitive next generation sequencing systems.” says Nathan Lillegard, CEO of Floragenex. “We’re excited to tap into the local expertise available through ONAMI and its eco-system of resources to design and build a unique solution. This product will not only help us improve our library preparation efficiency, but should be extensible to other next-gen applications.”, says Lillegard.

About Floragenex, Inc.

Founded in 2006 as a spinout of the University of Oregon, Floragenex is a biotechnology company focused on unlocking the potential of plants to meet growing demand for food, fuel, and raw materials in the 21st century. The company is currently engaged with a customer base ranging from global seed companies to local horticultural researchers using its exclusive Restriction site Associated DNA (RAD) marker SNP discovery technology.

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