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Inspiring Chemical Discovery

U.S. FDA and Molecular Networks Announce Joint Collaboration on Food Safety Evaluation and Assessment

COLLEGE PARK, MD, USA and ERLANGEN, Germany, September 21, 2011 – The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), and Molecular Networks GmbH today announce their scientific collaboration and partnership to jointly develop under a 3-years research collaboration agreement (RCA) the Office of Food Safety's food additives knowledge base CERES using Molecular Networks' chemoinformatics platform MOSES.

The Chemical Evaluation and Risk Estimation System (CERES) is a centralized, chemical structure oriented knowledge base, which will establish a sustainable data/information management and storage system to provide decision support for both pre-market and post-market safety assessments for food ingredients and food-contact substances. Included in CERES is the development of structural alerts, computational toxicology and metabolism prediction models, and threshold of toxicological concern approach to food ingredients.

Dr. Mitchell Cheeseman, Acting Director of FDA's Office of Food Safety, said that "with Molecular Networks and its technology, we have found a partner to streamline many tasks and enhance the Office's efficiency in ensuring food safety and protecting public health through improved pre-market review workflows, post-market surveillance of food ingredients and food-contact substances and centralized data management". Prof. Johann Gasteiger, CEO of Molecular Networks, adds that, "we are pleased to collaborate and support the Office of Food Safety in order to provide a knowledge base for assisting their reviewers in their decision making process and are happy that FDA is using our technology. This is an exciting collaboration." Dr. Chihae Yang of Altamira LLC, a member of the CERES team, recognized the vision of both sides, noting that, "FDA project leaders Drs. Annette McCarthy and Kirk Arvidson, in collaboration with Molecular Networks, have embarked on a journey to develop methods that will become international standards in safety assessment based on publicly available technology."

About U.S. FDA. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services responsible for protecting the public health by assuring that foods are safe, wholesome, sanitary and properly labeled; cosmetics and dietary supplements are safe and properly labeled; human and veterinary drugs, and vaccines and other biological products and medical devices intended for human use are safe and effective; and for regulating tobacco products. FDA is also responsible for advancing the public health by helping to speed product innovations and for helping the public get the accurate science-based information they need to use medicines, devices, and foods to improve their health. FDA's responsibilities extend to the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and other U.S. territories and possession

About Molecular Networks. Molecular Networks (www.molecular-networks.com) offers innovative chemoinformatics software products, consulting, development and research services to increase the quality and productivity of discoveries in chemical, pharmaceutical and biotechnology R&D. Headquartered in Erlangen, Germany, Molecular Networks' technology is utilized worldwide in major industrial and academic discovery laboratories to design and optimize chemical products and processes. Molecular Networks' product portfolio and areas of activities range from synthesis design of chemical compounds to the prediction of their chemical, physical and biological properties, their chemical reactivity and metabolic or environmental fate.

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