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Palm Beach Gardens Biotech Firm is Awarded Grant for Development of Prognostic Biomarkers of Emphysema Under the Therapeutic Discovery Tax Credit Program

PALM BEACH GARDENS, FLORIDA – November 2, 2010

Ocean Ridge Biosciences, LLC (ORB) today announced that it has been awarded a \$69,435 grant under the Therapeutic Discovery Tax Credit program that was enacted under the U.S. government's Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The program targets projects that show potential to produce new therapies, address unmet medical needs, reduce the long-term growth of health care costs and advance the goal of curing cancer. ORB was awarded the grant for development of circulating MicroRNA as prognostic markers of Emphysema. ORB is conducting the work in collaboration with physicians at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York.

"Since there is no cure for Emphysema, it is critically important to develop a biomarker test that will identify smokers at a high risk for development of the disease. At-risk individuals can then be encouraged to participate in smoking cessation programs" said Becky Mercer, Ph.D., Member of the Board of Directors at ORB. "I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recognized the unmet need for reliable prognostic biomarkers of Emphysema. I look forward to continued collaboration with ORB on this program." said Robert, Foronjy, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine at Columbia University. Jeanine D'Armiento, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine at Columbia University is also a collaborator on the project.

About ORB

Ocean Ridge Biosciences (<http://oceanridgebio.com>) is an emerging Palm Beach Gardens, Florida-based research services company providing Genome Analysis and Biomarker Discovery services to biomedical scientists in academia, government, and the biotechnology industry. The company is additionally developing an intellectual property portfolio in RNA sample preparation technology and RNA-based predictive biomarker sets. For more information contact David Willoughby, Ph.D. at 561-427-7845 or davidw@oceanridgebio.com.

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