

**CHDI, INC. ANNOUNCES CORE  
HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE DRUG DISCOVERY TEAM**

August 15, 2005 – Robert Pacifici, CSO Drug Discovery & Development and Chief Scientific Advisor to CHDI, Inc., announced today the hiring of several key members to the CHDI, Inc. team. CHDI, Inc. was established in 2003 as a not-for-profit entity pursuing a biotech approach to finding therapies for Huntington's disease (HD).

**Douglas Macdonald, Ph.D. – Director, Drug Discovery**

Dr. Macdonald, former Senior Research Scientist in the CNS Molecular and Functional Neuropharmacology group at sanofi-aventis (formerly Aventis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.) in Bridgewater, NJ, led several programs for neuropsychiatric disorders. Prior to sanofi-aventis, Dr. Macdonald conducted research in the CNS Department at the Schering-Plough Research Institute in Kenilworth, NJ and at the Rockefeller University in the laboratory of Dr. R. Bruce Merrifield in New York, NY. Dr. Macdonald received his Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at the Boston University School of Medicine in the laboratory of Drs. N.D. Boyd and S.E. Leeman, his Master's degree in Medical Sciences from the Department of Biomolecular Medicine at the Boston University Graduate School in the laboratory of Dr. G. Heinrich, and his Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Trinity College (Hartford, CT). Dr. Macdonald will manage and direct HD drug discovery programs in both biotechnology and academic institutions.

**Richard J. Morse, Ph.D. – Director, Bioinformatics**

Dr. Morse, former computational biologist for Protein Pathways, where he worked on developing computational tools to bring biological pathway-centric analysis to the target identification component of the drug discovery process. Prior to Protein Pathways, Dr. Morse worked as a post-doctoral researcher at UCSF concentrating on protein structure and function where he solved the structure of a member of the class of protein insecticidal toxins used in the construction of transgenic insect-resistant crops. Dr. Morse received his B.S. in physics from Michigan State University, and his Ph.D. in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His work of note at MIT, and later at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory was his involvement in the hunt for the elusive quark-gluon plasma as a member of research collaborations at New York's Brookhaven National Laboratory, and later CERN in Geneva.

**Sun-Hua Leonard Chao, Ph.D. – Director, Cheminformatics**

Dr. Chao served as a consultant to Pfizer, where he established systems that integrate published literature with proprietary information. Prior to Pfizer, he was advisory software engineer at MDL, designing leading chemistry intelligence software. Dr. Chao's experience also includes work with discovery research informatics, both chemical and biological at Wyeth. Dr. Chao received his B.S. in Chemistry from National Taiwan University, and his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University at Buffalo.

### **Hyunsun Park, Ph.D. – Director of Quantitative Biology**

Dr. Park, former senior scientist of AGY therapeutics, Inc., South San Francisco where she coordinated the assay development, screening, and lead optimization efforts to discover novel small molecule therapeutics for neurological diseases. Prior to AGY therapeutics, Inc, she worked as a senior research scientist at Iconix Pharmaceuticals and Essential Therapeutics, Inc. in Mountain View, CA, where she developed cell-based and genetic assays to study toxic pathways induced by infectious micro-organisms in host cells and to apply the biological information to discover novel therapeutic agents for infectious diseases. Dr. Park received a B.S. degree in Biology from Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea and her Ph.D degree in Molecular Pharmacology at Stanford University. She did her postdoctoral research with Dr. Owen Witte at University of California, Los Angeles, where she worked on identify the signaling pathways involved in activation Bruton's tyrosine kinase.

### **Janet M. Leeds, Ph.D. - Director, Pre-Clinical Development**

Dr. Leeds, former director of pharmacology at Biota, Inc., an early drug discovery company, in Carlsbad, CA. Prior to Biota, Inc., Dr. Leeds was with Isis Pharmaceuticals where she worked in the Preclinical, Analytical Chemistry, and Functional Genomics Departments. While at Isis, Dr. Leeds was a project team member for multiple development projects and was pivotally involved in filing seven INDS and one NDA. Dr. Leeds experience also includes working at Bristol-Myers Squibb and Glaxo. Dr. Leeds received her B.S. in Biochemistry and Chemistry at the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois and her Ph.D. in Biochemistry at Oregon State University in Corvallis. She did her postdoctoral research at Duke University. At CHDI, Inc., Dr. Leeds will join the drug development effort, helping to move promising lead compounds from early drug discovery to the IND stage.

### **Larry Park, Ph.D. – Director, PreClinical Research**

Dr. Park, former senior research scientist of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc, Cambridge, MA where he lead the CNS In Vivo Pharmacology group in developing small molecule kinase inhibitors for stroke, chronic neurodegenerative and psychiatric disorders. Prior to Vertex pharmaceuticals, Dr. Park led the CNS Cell Biology group to develop various HTS-Driven cell-based screen assays and target-based biochemical assays in support of early drug discovery effort at Galileo Pharmaceuticals Inc. Dr. Park received his B.S. in Biology from the U.C. Los Angeles, and his Ph. D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the University of California at Irvine. His postdoctoral research was in CNS metabolic diseases at Cornell Medical College at Burke Institute, New York. Dr. Park will manage and direct drug discovery campaigns from Lead Optimization through IND filing.

## **Leticia M. Toledo-Sherman, Ph.D. – Director, Computer Aided Drug Design and Medicinal Chemistry**

Dr. Toledo-Sherman, former executive director of chemistry at LymphoSign Inc., managed medicinal, computational chemistry, and research relationships. Prior to LymphoSign Inc, Dr. Toledo-Sherman was director of drug design and discovery at Protana Inc. (formerly MDS Proteomics), leading several successful hit discovery and lead optimization projects as well as managing the company's Chemical Proteomics program, a multidisciplinary team across multiple sites. Prior to Protana, Dr. Toledo-Sherman was employed with Kinetix Pharmaceuticals Inc. (acquired by Amgen Dec 2000), one of the earliest successful biotech companies to focus exclusively on targeted kinase inhibition. While at Kinetix, she designed and implemented a Computer-Aided Design and Virtual Screening platform that led to the discovery of several novel potent small molecule inhibitors of protein kinases. Dr. Toledo-Sherman holds a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from The State University of New York at Stony Brook. She did her postdoctoral research at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Skaggs Institute of Chemical Biology at The Scripps Research Institute. Dr. Toledo-Sherman joins CHDI Inc as Director, computer aided drug design and medicinal chemistry.

### About CHDI, Inc. and High Q Foundation

CHDI Inc. and the High Q Foundation are non-profit organizations that share the mission of bringing together academia, industry, governmental agencies, and other funding organizations in the search for HD treatments.

CHDI, Inc. is pursuing a biotech approach to rapidly discover and develop drugs that prevent or slow Huntington's disease. Through collaborations with industrial and academic partners, CHDI, Inc., participates in all aspects of drug discovery and development from high throughput screening to preclinical development.

For more information about CHDI, Inc. please see [www.chdi-inc.org](http://www.chdi-inc.org) or contact Robert Pacifici ([robert.pacifici@chdi-inc.org](mailto:robert.pacifici@chdi-inc.org)).

High Q supports Huntington's disease research aimed at target identification and validation, the development and use of animal models, drug delivery, and the search for markers of disease progression. For more information about High Q's HD research support, please see [www.highqfoundation.org](http://www.highqfoundation.org), or contact Ethan Signer ([ethan.signer@highqfoundation.org](mailto:ethan.signer@highqfoundation.org)) or Allan Tobin ([allan.tobin@highqfoundation.org](mailto:allan.tobin@highqfoundation.org)).

### About MRSSI, Inc.

MRSSI, Inc. was established in 2002 to provide administrative, management and grant making services to High Q, CHDI, Inc. and other non-profit organizations dedicated to HD research.