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National Institutes of Health

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National Institutes of Health Commercialization Assistance Program (NIH-CAP)

Company Profile

Industry Sector: Life Sciences

Company Overview: Omicia, Inc. develops technologies and products that translate an individual's unique genetic makeup into simple, cost-effective and clinically actionable quantitative risk assessment indices. We are pioneering the use of individual genetic signatures for early risk assessment, particularly for complex diseases such as cardiovascular disease. Supported in part by several NIH grants, Omicia has built a technology platform that bridges the gap between genetic discoveries and medical practice. The lead product, which is currently undergoing clinical validation, will be a prognostic test that cardiologists can use to help guide testing and treatment decisions for large numbers of patients with inconclusive symptoms. By allowing disease risk to be assessed before symptoms have progressed, Omicia's tests enable earlier preventive measures, improving clinical outcomes and reducing health care costs.

Initial Target Market(s): Cardiovascular disease

Key Personnel

Martin Reese, PhD: Co-founder, President and CEO; Degrees from Heidelberg, UC Berkeley; genomics expert; first startup Neomorphic sold to Affymetrix Nomi Harris: Lawrence Berkeley Natl. Lab, NCBI/NIH, UCSF, Princeton, MIT Donna Hendrix, PhD: UC Berkeley, UCSF, MIT, AGY Inc. Andrew MacBride: Stanford, Cohera (Co-founder), Zone Labs, Yahoo! Alessandro Ratti, MBA: CFO; Lawrence Berkeley Lab, Bionovo, UCB

Scientific Advisory Board:

Michael Ashburner, PhD: Professor, Cambridge Univ.; Gene Ontology founder Andreas Braun, MD, PhD: Symex, Dx Innovations, Sequenom Pui-Yan Kwok, MD, PhD: H. Bachrach Distinguished Prof. of Medicine, UCSF Herbert Schuster, MD, PhD: Prof. of Medicine, Humboldt Univ., Berlin; Infogen Tim Spector, MD: Prof. of Genetic Epidemiology, Kings College London Terry Speed, PhD: Prof. of Statistics and Head of Bioinformatics, UC Berkeley John Witte, PhD: Prof. & Assoc. Dir., Institute for Human Genetics, UCSF

Key Value Drivers

Technology: Omicia's genomic technology platform turns genetic discoveries into clinically applicable prognostic tests. The platform includes sophisticated algorithms that rank the contribution of each phenotypically relevant gene and marker to a particular disease state or drug response. The selected markers are embedded on a gene chip.

Competitive Advantage: Omicia's proprietary disease gene database, our advanced software system for selecting clinically relevant genes, and our in-depth understanding of cardiovascular disease (CVD) give us a strong competitive advantage in the prognostic genetic testing arena for CVD. We are addressing an unmet, clinically actionable medical need with a large market. Omicia's technical expertise is unmatched in both breadth and depth, and its management team has strong entrepreneurial backgrounds.

Plan & Strategy: We rigorously validate our tests via clinical collaborations that give us access to pre-collected, well-characterized samples. After attaining acceptance by the medical profession, we will secure reimbursement and apply for 510(k) FDA approval.

*Technology funded in part by the NHGRI and being commercialized under the NIH-CAP

Product Development

Applying our *in silico* analysis technology, we have moved our first CVD-related Omicia Risk Index (ORI) into clinical development. We have identified a set of genes with the predictive power to profile cardiac risk in the target population. We are actively evaluating additional opportunities in CVD and other relevant disease areas.

