Oracle $1 Million Gift Helps Dana-Farber
To Better Manage And Mine Genomic Data

Faster, more comprehensive analysis of research data will lead to better understanding of cancers

BOSTON and REDWOOD SHORES, Calif., September 26, 2006—Oracle (NASDAQ: ORCL) today announced a two-year, $1 million gift, in the form of an Oracle Commitment Grant, to aid Dana-Farber researchers in an ambitious effort to merge genomic information with clinical data as a step toward improving cancer diagnosis and individualizing treatment for patients.

This grant brings together the expertise of two industry leaders — Dana-Farber, a world-renowned cancer institute, and Oracle, the world’s largest enterprise software company—to form a partnership to leverage the wealth of available medical research data in ways that increase understanding of human cancers. In addition, this partnership will allow for the creation of bioinformatics research tools urgently needed to make further progress in finding better ways to diagnose and treat cancer. Increasingly, scientists are gathering vast amounts of data about the genetic underpinnings of disease, and are working to relate these findings to differences how the disease develops and the way in which patients and their cancers respond to various treatments.

“Oracle’s expertise in designing advanced ‘data mining’ applications will bring a new perspective and powerful tools to bear on the problems we face in trying to extract meaning from the data we compile,” said John Quackenbush, PhD, the Dana-Farber informatics researcher who heads the project. Quackenbush is a world-recognized expert in finding ways to connect and mine massive collections of data to support cutting-edge medical research.

He said that he and his colleagues will work with software developers at Oracle “to create new methods and applications that address critical needs, which, at present, have limited our ability to make the most of our available resources.”

“Oracle is committed to advancing medical research in ways that have a positive, measurable impact on patients, doctors and the fight against cancer,” said Rosalie Gann, Oracle...
Director of Global Corporate Citizenship. “Our partnership with Dana-Farber brings together all of the key elements required—disease research data, medical research, data mining, data security, confidentiality—and allows Oracle to use its expertise to truly make a difference in people’s lives.”

Quackenbush said that the partnership will serve as a “cornerstone” of a new Center for Computational Cancer Biology being created at Dana-Farber under its recently implemented strategic plan.

Cancer today is viewed as a disease of genes and gene “pathways,” or molecular connections, linking the thousands of genes in a cell. Most cancers develop because altered or damaged genes lead to abnormal behavior of cells, such as out-of-control growth and division.

Quackenbush, who came to Dana-Farber in 2005, together with his team has developed a series of freely available, Web-accessible databases and software tools that are intended to identify genes and gene functions for use in scientific discovery. With the help of Oracle’s technology, the scientists want to integrate these databases with information from leading-edge cancer studies at Dana-Farber and data obtained using advanced technologies to examine samples of patient tissue. Ultimately, the goal is to help predict the best course of cancer treatment and to better understand the mechanisms responsible for disease development and progression.”

“Anything we can do to bring this information together and mine it effectively is going to have great potential for impacting the way we treat and manage disease,” said Quackenbush. “This Oracle gift will allow us to investigate approaches that might effectively bridge the data and information gap between the clinics and the research laboratories.”

About Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (http://www.dana-farber.org) is a principal teaching affiliate of the Harvard Medical School and is among the leading cancer research and care centers in the United States. It is a founding member of the Dana-Farber/Harvard. Cancer Center (DF/HCC), designated a comprehensive cancer center by the National Cancer Institute.

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