



For Immediate Release

Yissum Introduces Novel Device for Improved Saliva Based Medical Diagnostics

- Technology Presented at ILSI BioMed Israel 2008 conference -

Tel Aviv, Israel, May 27, 2008 – Yissum, the technology transfer company of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, introduced today a novel device that enhances the diagnostic value of saliva. Speaking at the Technology Transfer Session at the ILSI Biomed Israel 2008 conference Professor Aaron Palmon, from the Faculty of Dental Medicine at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, presented a disposable device that clears whole saliva from its major protein constituent – alpha-amylase. The device enables the detection of various low-abundance biomarkers in human saliva.

Nava Swersky Sofer, President and CEO of Yissum said, "Professor Palmon's technology paves the way for a quick and efficient, non-invasive diagnostic tool which may replace current blood and other invasive tests. The disposable device is an important addition to current diagnostic technologies and will contribute to patient welfare. We also believe it carries significant commercial potential."

Saliva is an easily obtainable body fluid that is becoming an important diagnostic tool, since most molecule that can be found in the blood or urine, can also be detected in the oral cavity, although usually at lower concentrations. Studies indicate saliva may be useful for detecting various cancers, heart disease, diabetes, periodontal diseases, and other conditions as well a host of infectious agents such as HIV. Compared to collecting blood samples, obtaining saliva samples is a non-invasive, inexpensive and convenient procedure, which can even be performed at the home setting.

However, a major hurdle is that saliva contains a high content of proteins whose function is to digest food. One protein in particular, Amylase, is extremely abundant and constitutes up to 60% of saliva proteins. The massive presence of this protein may mask the presence of other protein components and hamper certain diagnostic tests.

Prof. Aaron Palmon and research student Omer Deutsch from the Institute of Dental Sciences, together with Dr. Doron Aframian, Head of the Salivary Gland Clinic, Department of Oral Medicine, the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine, invented a device that removes amylase from whole saliva (and other body fluids) in a simple and efficient procedure. The invention is a disposable device that

removes amylase in a single pass of the whole saliva. The device takes advantage of modified potato starch, which is able to absorb large quantities of amylase. This will increase the diagnostic value of saliva and enable efficient detection of markers found at low concentrations.

The 2007 global market for biomarkers was \$5.6 billion, and it is expected to increase to over \$12.8 billion by 2012. Over \$65 million were invested in the USA alone for the development of diagnostic kits based on saliva.

About Yisum

Yisum was founded in 1964 to protect the Hebrew University's intellectual property and commercialize it. \$1 Billion in annual sales are generated by products based on Hebrew University technologies licensed out by Yisum. Ranked among the top technology transfer companies in the world, Yisum has registered 5500 patents covering 1600 inventions; licensed out 480 technologies and spun out 65 companies. Yisum's business partners span the globe and include companies such as Novartis, Microsoft, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Intel, Teva and many more. For further information please visit www.yisum.co.il

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