

Dubbed a "mega-ultra-high-throughput screening technique" by its inventor, the technology measures thousands of enzyme activities using a dense array of sensing elements on a chip, letting researchers study different substances such as enzymes, activators, or inhibitors simultaneously and at a faster rate. Diamond designed his device to enhance high-throughput screening. "You want to do [HTS]?" he asks. "Do it in two days, no problem, for much less of a financial commitment."

Petzinger is currently in the process of recruiting Morewood's management team and documenting how the technology performs for quality control. In terms of the future, Petzinger said he may expand Morewood, perhaps acquiring other technologies that measure enzyme activity. And he expects to take the company in the best direction possible, whether that means going public, standing alone, or being acquired by a larger group. Regardless, both Petzinger and Diamond have no doubt in the viability of this technology. "It's worth forming a company around," Petzinger says.

— Alison McCook

GENEGO MAPS PATHWAYS WITH TRIAL AND ERROR

When Tatiana Nikolskaya says her company "is not doing what everyone else is doing," she means it. GeneGo, incorporated in December 2000, is a genomics company that says the genome isn't all it's cracked up to be.

Nikolskaya, a former wetlab biologist originally from Russia, focuses on what she calls functional reconstruction. "We don't care about actual sequence or structure," says the president and CEO. "The only thing that is really important is function." Basically, using biology and mathematical algorithms, GeneGo proposes pathways and then uses trial and error to test the theory. "If all the little parts fit together, it must be right," Nikolskaya says.

According to GeneGo logic, trying to establish pathways and

find drug targets by examining sequence and structure is useless at this point — "the human genome isn't at that level yet," she says. "The human genome sequence as it is would give us a skeleton. Not even a skeleton, maybe a tail and an ear."

Sound a little too simple? It's not, says Nikolskaya. "Building a [pathway] map is a very painful process." If a proposed pathway is wrong — as is often the case —

it will show itself, eventually. "At some point we'll have a problem. And in chasing down the problem, we'll find out what was wrong," she explains.

Nikolskaya and her associates start with a model of the disease and rely heavily on ESTs to come up with potential pathways. She has worked on this problem for nearly three years. She recruited people for metabolic networking, computer support, and annotation; the company has so far identified

Nikolskaya says function comes first



Consortium will offer an online bioinformatics education program starting Q3 this year. Member schools are: **Stanford University**, **University of Uppsala**, **Karolinska Institute**, **National University of Singapore**, **University of Sydney**, and the **University of Western Cape**. The name derives from their quirky commonality — all are from

universities, cities, or countries that begin with the letter S.

Quark Biotech has been making noise from all corners of the globe. Japanese drug firm **Fujisawa** recently made an equity investment in the company. Quark announced a research collaboration with **Cleveland Clinic Foundation**, and will move

its headquarters to the Ohio city. Research facilities remain in Chicago and Israel.

A tropical storm in early June caused extensive flood damage to **Baylor College of Medicine**, among others. Researchers there believe the deaths of thousands of lab animals could have set them back months or even years.

Roche Diagnostics allied with **CombiMatrix**, a subsidiary of **Acacia Research**. The 15-year deal stipulates that Roche will buy, sell, and use the company's biochips.

They might as well have turned into pumpkins. Members of the human gene therapeutic consortium raced against time to extract all possible information