



May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008

## Innovationsstiftung Hamburg Supports Research Project of CCS

CCS Cell Culture Service GmbH Hamburg is planning to develop novel assays, to analyze the selective effect of substances on G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) in heterodimeric complexes. GPCRs constitute the largest family of membrane proteins and more than 50 percent of drugs on the market today target GPCRs. As GPCRs are involved in many diseases ranging from depression to heart attack, they represent the most important target group for the screening of new drug entities.

New insights indicate that heterodimerization of GPCRs can lead to a receptor complex exhibiting a different pharmacological profile. Presently drug screening campaigns are exclusively concentrating on single GPCRs without considering the formation of heterodimers. The cell lines which CCS is developing will coexpress two GPCRs in a heterodimeric complex. "Screening for drug candidates with these innovative assays will open new therapeutic perspectives on receptors which have already been utilized in a screening campaign. Substances which were classified as non-effective could turn out as potential drug candidates in these tests" says Dr. Bernd Laffert, Head of Research of CCS.

The "Innovationsstiftung Hamburg" supports the three-year project in order to strengthen the innovative potential of small companies and to generate new jobs in Hamburg.

CCS Cell Culture Service was founded in the city of Hamburg 8 years ago. Its staff currently comprises 17 employees. CCS is mainly focused on the development of stable cell lines and the production of large amounts of cell material for pharmaceutical research.

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