



**DHARMACON'S COMPLETION OF FIRST HUMAN GENOME-WIDE siRNA LIBRARY
SIGNALS NEW ERA IN LIFE-SCIENCE RESEARCH**

*--Library Targets 21,000 Human Genes and Includes Over 100,000 siRNA Reagents Using Industry-Leading
SMARTselection™ and SMARTpool® Technologies—*

--Has the Potential to Revolutionize Functional Genomics and Drug-Discovery Research--

Lafayette, Colo. – July 27, 2005 - Dharmacon, Inc., the world's leading supplier of innovative RNA and RNA interference (RNAi) research products, today announced the completion of the world's first genome-wide, short-interfering RNA (siRNA) library. The siARRAY® genome-wide library is the first complete library targeting genes across the entire human genome.

Developed using Dharmacon's proprietary SMARTselection™ and SMARTpool® technologies, it is designed to dramatically decrease the time and cost needed for high-throughput functional genomic studies, while providing scientists with new capabilities to conduct research that was formerly not feasible. Availability of Dharmacon's complete human genome-wide siRNA library is expected to significantly accelerate drug discovery and development, and it also has the potential to increase scientists' understanding of fundamental disease mechanisms.

"We are proud to announce Dharmacon's completion of the first complete human genome-wide library, a milestone event for both the biomedical research community and for Dharmacon," said William S. Marshall, Ph.D., vice president of Technology and Business Development for the Fisher Biosciences Group. "We believe that the release of this genome-wide siRNA collection represents a fundamental advance in the capabilities available to biological researchers and will forever change medical research, by making it possible for scientists to determine the function of every human gene."

Dr. Marshall continued, "Until now, biological researchers seeking to elucidate the functions of genes were limited to studies in worms and fruit flies, or to small-scale studies of human gene function. Now for the first time, scientists will be able to conduct unbiased high-throughput, genome-wide gene-silencing studies in human cell lines. Dharmacon's whole genome collection enables researchers to rapidly and efficiently generate accurate information about gene pathways and to identify new genes and gene functions."

Dharmacon's siARRAY whole genome-wide siRNA library includes more than 100,000 siRNA reagents targeting over 21,000 human genes contained in the NCBI RefSeq database. A SMARTpool siRNA reagent and four individual siRNAs are available for each unique human gene. Dharmacon's SMARTpool siRNA reagents, innovative mixtures of four highly functional, individual siRNAs, minimize screening costs and guarantee potent gene silencing while limiting off-target effects and reducing the likelihood of false-positive and false-negative results. The availability of five gene-silencing reagents per gene also provides researchers the opportunity for independent validation of gene silencing effects. These qualities are especially important for high-throughput-screening applications, where both functionality and cost effectiveness are essential.

About Dharmacon

Dharmacon is the world's leading provider of reliable, high quality RNA oligonucleotides, small interfering RNA (siRNA) and related RNA-interference (RNAi) products and technologies. Using its core expertise in chemistry, biology, bioinformatics and production, Dharmacon has developed industry-leading siRNA design, chemical modification, and delivery technologies for maximizing the efficiency of gene silencing. Dharmacon's proprietary SMARTselection™ and SMARTpool® technologies result in potent and specific gene-silencing agents that can accelerate life-science research and drug discovery. Dharmacon's siGENOME™, a comprehensive and flexible siRNA collection, offers guaranteed silencing reagents for all unique human mouse and rat genes. The company's advanced siRNA modification technologies further enhance silencing specificity, stability, and in vivo performance. Dharmacon is a company within the Fisher Biosciences group, a unit of Fisher Scientific International Inc. (NYSE: FSH). For more information about Dharmacon products and services visit www.dharmacon.com or call 303-604-9499.