



## **PROMETHEUS AND THE MEDCO RESEARCH INSTITUTE® TO EVALUATE THE USE OF PROMETHEUS' THIOPURINE METABOLITE TESTING FOR OPTIMIZING TREATMENT OF INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE PATIENTS**

**San Diego, CA and Franklin Lakes, NJ, August 15, 2011** – Prometheus Laboratories Inc., a specialty pharmaceutical and diagnostics company that is part of Nestlé Health Science, and the Medco Research Institute®, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Medco Health Solutions, Inc. (NYSE:MHS), today announced that they have entered into a collaboration to evaluate the use of Prometheus' Thiopurine Metabolite (PTM) testing for optimizing dosing of 6 mercaptopurine (6MP) or azathioprine (Aza) in patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Optimization of dosing could lead to improved drug response and delay progression to more aggressive therapy.

Thiopurine immunomodulators, such as 6MP or its pro-drug Aza, are effective medical treatments for IBD when appropriately dosed. However, studies have shown that patients are frequently under dosed which can decrease the efficacy of these drugs. Through PTM testing, doctors may be able to select those patients who would benefit from dose adjustments and those that may have a risk of toxicity. Patients who are not responding due to lack of compliance could also be identified. This collaboration will evaluate whether PTM testing, used early after the decision is made to prescribe thiopurines, increases the time that patients remain on these drugs and thus reduces the rate at which patients transition to expensive alternative treatments.

"We believe that this collaboration provides an opportunity to show how our Prometheus Thiopurine Metabolite test can be used to optimize immunomodulator therapy for IBD patients," said Joseph Limber, Prometheus's Chief Executive Officer. "The results of this pilot project could help provide evidence supporting the clinical value and cost effectiveness of the routine use of this testing in patients taking thiopurine drugs."

"Programs of this nature have the potential to show that understanding a patient's molecular make-up with the help of a diagnostic test can improve a drug's efficacy and safety," said Felix Frueh, PhD, President, Medco Research Institute. "Working with Prometheus, Medco can help its clients better understand the value of these tests for IBD patients, and may assist physicians to make a personalized treatment decision for patients with this serious disease."

Through this collaboration, the companies will conduct the RECEIPT project (Research to Evaluate the Cost Effectiveness of Interventions with Prescriptions of Thiopurines), a pilot program to evaluate the benefit of PTM testing in IBD patients who have recently received a prescription for either 6MP or Aza. In addition, the collaboration will evaluate the cost effectiveness of PTM testing.

The Medco Research Institute will work with Medco clients to recruit patients to take part in the pilot program. It is anticipated that up to 500 Medco members who are using 6MP or Aza will have the PTM testing performed, and the downstream medical and pharmacy data from these patients will be compared to a similar number of Medco members who did not received PTM testing as part of their care, in order to determine the impact of PTM testing.

Personalized medicine is an area of healthcare that is becoming more widely used to focus on how a person's molecular makeup can affect their ability to respond to medications, allowing physicians better precision in selection or dosing of a drug thereby improving drug safety and efficacy.

### **About IBD**

IBD, including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, is a chronic inflammatory condition of the intestinal tract. Symptoms of the disease may include diarrhea, abdominal pain, fever and rectal bleeding. Patients may require long-term medical care, including hospitalizations, surgeries and therapeutics. The condition can be difficult to manage clinically and consumes a substantial amount of healthcare resources in terms of physician time, procedures and medications. Approximately 1.4 million Americans suffer from IBD.

### **About Prometheus**

Prometheus Laboratories Inc. is committed to improving lives through the development and commercialization of novel pharmaceutical and diagnostic products that enable physicians to provide greater individualized patient care. Prometheus is a leader in applying the principles of personalized medicine to the diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal diseases and is applying these principles to oncology. Its strategy includes the marketing and delivery of pharmaceutical products complemented by proprietary diagnostic testing services. By integrating therapeutics and diagnostics, Prometheus believes it can provide physicians with more targeted solutions to optimize care for their patients. Prometheus has become part of Nestlé Health Science in July 2011. Prometheus' corporate offices are located in San Diego, California. For more information about Prometheus, please visit [www.prometheuslabs.com](http://www.prometheuslabs.com).

### **About Nestlé Health Science**

Nestlé Health Science, a fully-owned subsidiary of Nestlé S.A., is operational since January 1, 2011 and has worldwide headquarters in Lutry, Switzerland. Nestlé Health Science offers nutritional solutions for people with specific dietary needs related to illnesses, disease states or the special challenges of different life stages. For more information about Nestlé Health Science, please visit [www.nestlehealthscience.com](http://www.nestlehealthscience.com).

### **About the Medco Research Institute**

**Medco Research Institute**<sup>®</sup> is an evidence-based research organization focused solely on novel research, analytics and new discoveries that close the gap between scientific discovery and medical practice for improved patient outcomes and lower overall healthcare costs. More information about the Medco Research Institute's peer-reviewed research can be found at [www.medcoresearch.com](http://www.medcoresearch.com).

**About Medco**

Medco Health Solutions, Inc. (NYSE: MHS) is pioneering the *world's most advanced pharmacy*<sup>®</sup> and its clinical research and innovations are part of *Medco making medicine smarter*<sup>™</sup> for approximately 65 million members.

With more than 20,000 employees worldwide dedicated to improving patient health and reducing costs for a wide range of public and private sector clients, and 2010 revenues of \$66 billion, Medco ranks 34th on the 2010 Fortune 500 list and is named among the world's most innovative, most admired and most trustworthy companies.

For more information, go to <http://www.medcohealth.com>.

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements involve risks and uncertainties that may cause results to differ materially from those set forth in the statements. No forward-looking statement can be guaranteed, and actual results may differ materially from those projected. We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise. Forward-looking statements in this press release should be evaluated together with the risks and uncertainties that affect our business, particularly those mentioned in the Risk Factors section of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

**Contacts:**

Prometheus Laboratories Inc.  
Beth Kriegel  
Vice President, Finance & Treasurer  
(858) 410-2516

Medco Health Solutions, Inc.  
Jennifer Luddy  
201-269-6402  
[jennifer\\_luddy@medco.com](mailto:jennifer_luddy@medco.com)