



# Vivo Biosciences Inc.

*Accelerating Preclinical Research, Drug Discovery & Therapeutics*

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Vivo Biosciences comments on HuBiogel™ Platform's utility in reducing, refining and replacing the use of animals in drug development.**

Birmingham, AL – May 1, 2009 – The United States, Canada, Japan and the European Union entered into a Memorandum of Cooperation that seeks to reduce the number of animals required for consumer products safety testing worldwide. Linda Birnbaum, Director of the US National Toxicology Program and the US National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences commented on behalf of the United States, “This agreement will help us achieve greater efficiency by avoiding duplication of effort and allowing us to leverage limited resources.”

Dr. Raj Singh, Chief Executive Officer of Vivo Biosciences, Inc. (VBI), commented on the utility of its novel 3D HuBiogel™ Assay Platform in addressing the goals of the Memorandum of Cooperation. “The reduction, refinement and replacement of animals in drug development where possible are laudable goals which can be facilitated by the utility of our 3D HuBiogel™ In Vitro Assay Platform. The goal of in vitro assays in preclinical drug development is to mimic the human body as close as possible and provide data upon which critical drug development decision can be based. Our 3D HuBiogel™ Assay Platform can deliver in this respect. ”

The movement to reduce the use of animal testing involved in the discovery and development of drugs has been prominent in the European community, and it has recently accelerated in the United States. Although the likelihood of animal testing being totally eliminated from drug development processes is highly unlikely, efforts to reduce the numbers of animals used by using relevant in vitro tests can provide pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies with substantial drug development costs savings.

#### About Vivo Biosciences, Inc.

Vivo Biosciences, Inc. is an emerging, venture-backed biotechnology company, incorporated in 2004 for the purpose of introducing a novel, human biomatrix, HuBiogel™, to the biological research markets. VBI strives to maximize the functional relevance & predictability of your cell-based assays. We are confident that our unique HuBiogel™ assays will improve drug efficacy/ toxicity endpoints and critical preclinical decisions.

#### About the HuBiogel™ Assay Platform

The 3D HuBiogel™ Assay Platform is a novel in vitro assay platform that recapitulates human cells in a fully human extracellular matrix. These three dimensional systems provide the drug development industry with a cost efficient assay to identify drug efficacy and toxicity. Current systems use animal based or synthetic extracellular matrices which may impact their in vivo predictability.

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Source: Vivo Biosciences, Inc.

Vivo Biosciences Website: [www.vivobiotech.com](http://www.vivobiotech.com)