



**Press Release**

**OXFORD**

**For Immediate Release**

**Biotechnology firm Oxford BioDynamics earns Technology Innovation Award for biomarker discovery platform *EpiSwitch*<sup>™</sup>**

[Oxford BioDynamics](#), the UK-based Biotechnology Company, today announces it has received the [Frost & Sullivan](#) 2015 European Technology Innovation Award for biomarker discovery. The Oxford University spin-out received the award for its biomarker discovery platform *EpiSwitch*<sup>™</sup>, which is based on the latest understanding of the mechanisms of epigenetics, non-coding RNA and gene expression.

Oxford BioDynamics' unique technology platform *EpiSwitch*<sup>™</sup> was awarded the prize because it addresses an urgent need for better diagnostic tools in the pharmaceutical industry by offering accelerated discovery of biomarkers for the development of such tools. The award also recognises the company's successful expansion into new markets, particularly in the rapidly growing healthcare markets of Asia, where Oxford BioDynamics has entered pioneering research partnerships with pharmaceutical businesses and researchers in the region.

Dr Alexandre Akoulitchev, chief scientific officer at Oxford BioDynamics, comments: "*EpiSwitch*<sup>™</sup> has been developed for the early and reliable detection of aberrant gene expression. The platform offers an affordable means of non-invasive screening to improve patient outcomes, and deliver data to support market access. *EpiSwitch*'s unique technology counters the rising cost of drug development by identifying viable patient groups for new and existing drugs. This recognition from Frost & Sullivan is great news, as we continue to work with partners to develop new diagnostic technologies for the healthcare industry."

In 2007 Oxford BioDynamics was spun-out from Oxford University, following ground-breaking work by its founders in the area of epigenetics. They have since developed a robust platform that delivers highly valuable predictive biomarkers to identify patients who could benefit from a given therapy, response biomarkers for patients undergoing treatments and residual disease monitoring in patients under the risk of disease recurrence – the essential steps for reducing the cost of drug development and improving patient outcomes. The company initially aimed to improve the process of biomarker identification only in oncology, but since it has successfully commercialised its platform technology,



it has now contracted with more than a dozen major pharmaceutical and research partners to identify biomarkers in inflammatory, metabolic, autoimmune and neurodegenerative disease areas.

Madhumitha Rangesa, research analyst at Frost & Sullivan, comments: “Frost & Sullivan’s independent analysis of the biomarker market clearly shows Oxford BioDynamics has developed an original technology platform in *EpiSwitch™*. The technology enables the validation of biomarkers and addresses the unmet needs of pharmaceutical companies in a non-invasive and fast manner. The company has garnered multiple patents and commercial contracts across Europe, Asia and North America with a number of leading pharmaceutical companies to develop companion diagnostics.”

The award will be officially presented to Oxford BioDynamics on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October at an Awards Banquet in Monte Carlo.

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#### **Notes for Editors**

##### **Oxford BioDynamics**

Oxford BioDynamics is a biotechnology company with a proprietary biomarker discovery platform, *EpiSwitch™*, that accelerates the development of companion diagnostics for the pharmaceutical industry.

*EpiSwitch™* supports new product development for applications in the screening, early detection, monitoring and prognosis of disease and chronic conditions associated with aberrant gene expression, such as oncology, inflammatory, metabolic, autoimmune and neurodegenerative conditions.

Oxford BioDynamics Limited is registered in England and Wales, and has subsidiaries in Singapore, Malaysia and Australia.

<http://oxfordbiodynamics.com/>



### **Frost & Sullivan**

Frost & Sullivan employs 1,800 analysts, growth consultants, and visionaries in 40 global offices. It provides two critical services to its "partners" that support their growth strategies: Growth Partnership Services and Growth Consulting.

Frost & Sullivan's Best Practices Awards recognise companies throughout a range of regional and global markets for superior leadership, technological innovation, customer service, and strategic product development. Frost & Sullivan's industry analyst team benchmarks market participants and measures their performance through independent, primary interviews, and secondary industry research in order to evaluate and identify best practices.

Media Contact: Sam Jackson, Manager, BOTTLE PR, [samjackson@bottlepr.co.uk](mailto:samjackson@bottlepr.co.uk), +44 1865 770 381