FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Stemina Biomarker Discovery to Receive $2.3 Million Investment from the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation to Sponsor Important Clinical Study of Metabolism of Children with Autism

MADISON, WISCONSIN (November 18, 2014)

Stemina Biomarker Discovery, Inc. today announced a $2.3 million investment from the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation (NLMFF) to support its clinical study of biomarkers in the blood of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) that can distinguish them from typically developing children. The research is the first of its kind and has the potential to enable earlier diagnosis and individualized treatment of children with ASD from a blood sample. “We are impressed with the potential of the metabolomics platform developed by Stemina and the significance of the results obtained from their well-designed clinical study of the metabolism of children with ASD,” said Clarence Schutt, PhD, Director & Chief Scientific Officer of the Foundation.

Diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) at an early age is important for initiating effective intervention. The current average age of diagnosis in the United States is 4.5 years. Patients can be reliably diagnosed through behavioral testing at 2 years of age only at health care facilities with sufficient autism expertise. Increasing evidence indicates that ASD is a complex disorder that has many causes and a variety of genetic risks. Identification of a metabolic signature of autism from blood samples will offer earlier screening and diagnosis to improve both therapy and outcome for patients and families.

Using its proprietary metabolomics platform, Stemina has studied nearly 600 banked blood samples from patients with ASD as compared to typically developing children. Using a sample of the patient’s blood, Stemina was able to identify the patient with autism from the typically developing child with 81% accuracy. “We are very pleased with the results of our initial studies because they demonstrate that differences in the metabolism of children with ASD are profound enough to distinguish them from typically developing children,” said Stemina CEO Elizabeth Donley. The investment by the NLMFF will allow Stemina to enroll patients under conditions ideal for studying the patient’s innate metabolism. “This will increase our understanding of the individual metabolism of children with ASD because ASD is a complex and diverse disorder,” said Donley.

Metabolomics is the study of changes in metabolism. Stemina uses its platform technology to discover important biomarkers for toxicology screening or to diagnose disease. Stemina has recently completed three studies of nearly 600 children from the MIND Institute and Arkansas Children’s Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI). “What is exciting about the data we are generating from the patients we have had the privilege of testing, is that we are beginning to identify metabolic subtypes in comparing one child with ASD to another. This has the potential
to revolutionize the way children are diagnosed and treated based on the individual's metabolism,” said Donley.

About the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation:

The primary mission of the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation (NLMFF) is to help people with autism lead fulfilling and rewarding lives. The Foundation is committed to understanding autism from a scientific perspective, increasing opportunities and services available to the autism community and educating the public about autism.

In pursuit of its mission, the Foundation develops and provides grants to programs in research, clinical care, policy, advocacy and education. Founded by Nancy Lurie Marks, the NLM Family Foundation is one of the largest supporters of initiatives in these areas.

The principal goal of the scientific program is to achieve a deeper understanding of the biological basis of autism, focusing on genetics, synaptic chemistry, the neurobiology of communication, systems biology, and the physiology of movement. The Foundation funds peer-reviewed research, the development of collaborative investigator projects, and research fellowship programs. Through sponsorship of scientific conferences, symposia and workshops, the Foundation seeks to encourage innovation and provide a springboard to generate new avenues of shared inquiry.

The NLM Family Foundation has recently established at Massachusetts General Hospital a multi-disciplinary center in autism, the Lurie Center dedicated to clinical care, cutting-edge research, advocacy and public policy analysis, as well as to providing training for a new generation of clinicians and researchers - all focused on meeting the comprehensive needs of autistic individuals from early childhood through adulthood. The Center's Director, Dr. Christopher McDougle, occupies an endowed Chair at Harvard Medical School.

The NLM Family Foundation is envisioning new collaborative opportunities in the areas of 21st century science and bioinformatics, and is exploring models which may take advantage of new web-based technologies to link research and clinical data. These will be critical to elaborating the role that genes play in brain development and to fostering the translation of research into new treatment tools and modalities. The Foundation is committed to having a profound impact on the quality of life and opportunities available to the autism community.

For more information on the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation, visit:
http://www.nlmfoundation.org/about_nlm.aspx

About Stemina:

Stemina Biomarker Discovery was founded in 2007 and is located in the Madison, Wisconsin. Stemina is a biomarker discovery company using its proprietary metabolomics platform to identify changes in metabolism which can be used to develop and commercialize tests to improve drug and chemical safety and human health. Stemina operates its business in two
divisions: one focused on developing diagnostic tests beginning with a blood test for diagnosing autism; and the other on compound safety screening for pharmaceutical, chemical, cosmetics and consumer products companies, the US Army and the Environmental Protection Agency.


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