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For more information contact:

Molly Varnau
Navigant Consulting, Inc.
Front Line Strategic Market Reports™ Division
650.525.1500 x102
molly@frontlinesmc.com

SYSTEMS BIOLOGY POSITIONED TO RADICALLY IMPROVE DRUG DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

Experimental and In Silico Technologies are Enabling More Efficient Clinical Trials

San Mateo, California, December 17, 2003 – Systems biology is an emerging concept, with industry and academia often differing in their interpretation of this new approach. In the strategic market report (SMR™) launched today, ***Systems Biology: Thought Leader Perspectives and Applications Analysis***, the applications, technologies, and goals of systems biology are examined. Key applications are described in detail, including drug target validation, bioprocess engineering, and drug development, enforcing that systems biology is already positively influencing therapeutic research and development. Ultimately, new tools will significantly reduce R&D time and cost, for both small molecule drugs and biologics.

As the immense influx of microarray data is analyzed and entire organisms' genomes are sequenced, a wealth of information is being generated, advancing biotechnology and enabling the educated development of tailored pharmaceuticals. Scientists and engineers are working side-by-side, using both top-down and bottom-up approaches, to model biological networks and create tools to visualize and utilize entire systems of information. Advances in computational technologies are enabling development of models and databases, promoting the creation of a systems biology markup language (SMBL) to communicate among different models and data types.

According to Front Line's research and analysis, *in silico* technologies are improving the analysis and centralization of experimental data, but the results from models must be validated empirically. "Through cross-functional collaboration, systems biology models will continue to improve, optimizing target validation, developing safer and more effective drugs, and saving pharmaceutical companies time and money," says Julie Watts, associate, Navigant Consulting.

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