Progenics Pharmaceuticals Announces Collaboration with Veterans Affairs on the AI Research Program for Medical Image Analysis

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The collaboration with VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System is nation's first to validate deep learning algorithms in medical imaging of veterans with prostate cancer

NEW YORK and WASHINGTON, July 25, 2019 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Progenics Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq:PGNX), an oncology company developing innovative medicines and imaging technology for targeting and treating cancer, announced their collaboration with the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) on Progenics' AI research program. The collaborative AI research program aims to apply machine learning to medical imaging modalities, enabling standardized, information-driven healthcare practices in prostate cancer. The project is the nation's first collaborative effort to validate cutting-edge machine learning tools for improving treatment management of Veterans with prostate cancer.

"We are pleased to be collaborating with the VAGLAHS and Dr. Matthew Rettig, Chief of Hematology-Oncology, on the AI imaging platform, bringing together the largest integrated healthcare network in the U.S. with the leader in prostate cancer detection and monitoring," said Mark Baker, Chief Executive Officer of Progenics. "Progenics' AI research program will provide the VAGLAHS, and in the future, the entire VA, with standardized, quantitative information to improve the quality of life, care and treatment of our Veterans with prostate cancer. We believe that artificial intelligence can be applied successfully to automate the segmentation, classification, and quantification of tumors, thereby enabling improved treatment decisions for men with prostate cancer."

In the project, the VAGLAHS network will gain access to Progenics' machine learning platforms, which includes the automated Bone Scan Index (aBSI) and the PSMA-AI platforms. The collaboration would explore novel predictive machine learning algorithms from the digital medical images and its associated clinical outcomes. These novel algorithms would be prospectively validated at VAGLAHS for effective healthcare management of Veterans with prostate cancer.

Data Privacy and Security

The research collaboration will take every step necessary to protect the Veteran's data. All image and associated clinical data would be anonymized before being processed by the Progenics' AI platform. Progenics' AI platform is designed, developed, deployed and maintained according to cybersecurity guidance; NIST cybersecurity framework, the Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP). All data handled by the platform is encrypted in transit and at rest.

About Progenics

Progenics develops innovative medicines and other technologies to target and treat cancer, including: therapeutic agents designed to treat cancer (AZEDRA®, 1095, and PSMA TTC); prostate-specific membrane antigen ("PSMA") targeted imaging agents for prostate cancer (1404 and PyL ™); and imaging analysis technology. Progenics has two commercial products, RELISTOR® (methylnaltrexone bromide) subcutaneous injection for the treatment of opioid-induced constipation, which is partnered with Salix Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bausch Health Companies Inc. (formerly known as Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc.)); and AZEDRA, for the treatment of patients with unresectable, locally advanced or metastatic pheochromocytoma or paraganglioma (rare neuroendocrine tumors of neural crest origin) who require systemic anticancer therapy.

About VHA

The Veterans Health Administration is the largest agency within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The VHA is America's largest integrated health care system, providing care at 1,240 health care facilities, including 170 medical centers and 1,061 outpatient sites of care of varying complexity (VHA outpatient clinics), serving 9 million enrolled Veterans each year.

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