



MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Innovascreen Scientists Identify New Target for Treating Metastatic Cancer**

**HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA – MARCH 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008** -- A team of scientists, including Innovascreen's founders Dr. Andries Zijlstra and Dr. John Lewis, have identified a human protein that may be a new target for future cancer therapies. By experimentally blocking the action of this protein, called CD151, the researchers showed they could stop cancer cells from metastasizing, or spreading from one tumour to establish new tumours elsewhere.

Metastasis is a hallmark of late-stage cancer and contributes significantly to the large number of cancer deaths each year in Canada and the United States. In the cover article of the March 11 issue of the journal *Cancer Cell*, Drs. Zijlstra and Lewis and colleagues from The Scripps Research Institute in California describe how blocking CD151 stopped the spread of human cancer cells within fertilized chicken embryos—an experimental model used for studying cancer metastasis.

According to Dr. Zijlstra, targeting this protein keeps the cancer cells stuck tightly in place. This may be the first time anyone has shown a potential way of blocking cancer metastasis at its very earliest stage—as the cells are first pulling away from their tumours of origin.

These results provide a proof of concept for a new class of anti-metastatic drugs that block CD151.

### ***About Innovascreen***

With two platform technologies under management, Innovascreen is an ideal partner for an organization involved in early stage preclinical development of therapeutic candidates. The Avian System for Evaluating Therapeutics (ASET) Platform allows our clients and partners to screen compound libraries and validates lead candidates for further investment, faster, better and cheaper than other available options. Fusogenix is an advanced drug delivery platform with a unique mechanism of action that offers the chance to improve systemic delivery of therapeutic cargos. Innovascreen is a privately held company, headquartered in Nova Scotia, Canada. For more information, please visit [www.innovascreen.com](http://www.innovascreen.com)

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