



CHIMERIX

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Chimerix Named a Red Herring Top 100 Private Company

- Award Recognizes Chimerix as a Top Company in North America that Drives the Technology Industry's Future -

SAN DIEGO, CA, May 12, 2005 - Chimerix Inc., an emerging biotechnology company developing orally available antiviral therapeutics, today announced that it has been named one of the Red Herring 100 Private Companies of North America. Chimerix was chosen as one of the top emerging biotechnology companies for the company's vision, management expertise, and overall potential to change the way disease is treated.

"Five years after the dot-com bubble burst, innovation and entrepreneurship are thriving. The companies on this list are proof," said Red Herring editor-in-chief Joel Dreyfuss.

"The broad application of our proprietary technology allows the company to quickly develop critical drug candidates for a variety of viral diseases, the most advanced of which is CMX001, our lead antiviral agent for treatment of smallpox infection," said George Painter, Ph.D., president and CEO of Chimerix, Inc. "Chimerix is honored to be chosen from among so many outstanding private companies in the technology industry, and to be recognized for the company's experienced team of professionals and corporate vision."

Red Herring's lists of private companies are an important part of the magazine's tradition of identifying new and innovative technology companies and entrepreneurs. Companies like Google and eBay were spotted in their early days by Red Herring editors as those that would change the way we live and work.

Red Herring's editorial staff rigorously evaluated more than 900 private companies through a careful analysis of financial data and subjective criteria, including quality of management, execution of strategy, and dedication to research and development. Red Herring 100 companies will be presenting their business model and strategy at the Red Herring Spring conference. Red Herring Spring will take place May 17-19 at the Monterey Plaza Hotel in Monterey, California.

About Chimerix

Chimerix Inc. is a privately held biotechnology company creating and developing orally available medicines from bioactive molecules. Application of Chimerix's proprietary technology enhances oral availability, stabilizes drug in plasma, and facilitates the delivery of drugs into targeted tissues. Known drugs can be modified to improve dosing parameters, broaden therapeutic applications and decrease the risk of adverse reactions. Chimerix is applying its technology towards discovery and development of oral drugs for the treatment of smallpox, cytomegalovirus infection, drug-resistant HIV infection and viral hepatitis. Chimerix was founded in 2002 and is headquartered in San Diego, CA, with offices in Research Triangle Park, NC.

About Red Herring Spring

Red Herring Spring is an invitation-only event for CEOs, select senior executives, and Venture Capitalists. Themed 'The Dynamics of Disruptions', Red Herring Spring 2005 will bring together executives from mostly private companies. These executives will be joined by senior executives from public companies and Venture Capitalists. Please contact Sean Raman at 650.428.2900 or email sraman@redherring.com if you would like to request an invitation to Red Herring Spring.

About Red Herring

Red Herring is the weekly magazine technology entrepreneurs, investors and industry observers read to stay ahead of the curve and to be better informed about the global marketplace. Red Herring covers technology, innovation, financial strategies, important personalities and trends that are transforming the world of business with unique insight, opinion and forward-looking analysis. Readers turn to Red Herring for knowledge to make strategic decisions, build companies and create a competitive advantage for their businesses. Red Herring articles, blogs, research and event information can be found online at www.redherring.com.