

## **GenVault Announces The Personal Archive DNA Storage System National Institute of Aging Signs on as First Customer**

San Diego, CA - April 20, 2004 - GenVault, a biological sample and data management company that has developed a high speed, room temperature DNA storage and retrieval platform, today announced the launch of the GenVault Personal Archive storage system. GenVault's Personal Archive system offers a lab-scale DNA storage system allowing for simple on-site management of multiple DNA samples. In order to better organize existing and new DNA inventories, the Intramural Research Program of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) has ordered two Personal Archive systems. The NIA, one of the institutes and centers of the National Institutes of Health, is leading a broad scientific effort to understand the nature of aging and to extend the healthy, active years of life.

The Personal Archive utilizes GenVault's 384-well microplates, GenPlates, containing solid-state elements that extract DNA from blood samples or buccal (cheek) cells upon contact, trapping the DNA in a format that can be stored and shipped at room temperature without special biohazard labeling and treatment. Current data demonstrate that the DNA is stably preserved in this form and that it may be extracted and purified at will with a few buffer washes, also at room temperature. The capacity of the Personal Archive system is 990 GenPlates and includes sample management software that tracks the locations of GenPlates within the storage cabinet. Sample tracking is made simple with GenVault's GenPlate ID, a physical barcode and GenVault's bio-barcode, GenCode, a unique identifier that remains with the sample after elution from the plate.

"Efficient DNA storage solutions are critical as genetic testing activities advance to the personalized medicine goal," said Mitch Eggers, Ph.D., chief executive officer and president of GenVault. The launch of our Personal Archival system will open up the benefits of GenVault's DNA storage platform to smaller sample sizes that can be stored on-site. This system is a cost-effective storage solution that will enable researchers to make better use of their resources, increase the transfer of samples between labs and ultimately contribute to more medical and therapeutic discoveries.

The smaller scale entry point into GenVault's dry state storage system offers DNA storage that can be placed in any laboratory environment. The Personal Archive system targets life science researchers who have a smaller number of DNA samples, up to two thousand, but want to take advantage of GenVault's unique integrated storage system.

### **About GenVault**

GenVault is the leader in integrated biosample management. The company currently provides integrated archiving and retrieval solutions for organizations managing DNA collections. GenVault aims to serve customers including medical centers, academic institutions, pharmaceutical companies, and law enforcement agencies. Future systems will also accommodate proteins and RNA to provide a comprehensive solution. As a scalable and reliable alternative to traditional freezer networks and DNA purification systems, GenVault's dry-state platform enables the extraction, preservation and recovery of DNA at room temperature. This novel sample management solution is configured for each customer's

workflow and the planned growth of their biosample archive. From its GenPlate to its Dynamic Archive solution, GenVault is continuously developing and refining best practices for integrated biosample management.