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## Startup developing cancer diagnostics gets \$10M

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LEXINGTON — Six-month-old **Predictive Biosciences**, which is using technology licensed from Children's Hospital Boston to create noninvasive cancer diagnosis products, received \$10 million in first-round funding from co-lead investors Highland Capital Partners in Lexington and IDG Ventures Boston.

Predictive Biosciences of Lexington will use the money for the validation phase of the technology as well as to hire research technicians, scientists and support staff.

The startup licensed a portfolio of biomarkers from Children's Hospital that have the potential to detect multiple types of cancer, potentially before the disease becomes symptomatic.

Predictive Biosciences has the exclusive rights to take the portfolio, along with measurement technologies, and commercialize them for cancer diagnostics.

The company is focused on noninvasive ways of measuring the concentration of these biomarkers, which are proteins that serve as molecular markers indicating the presence of disease or infection. The biomarkers are present in bodily fluids such as blood, urine and saliva.

Predictive Biosciences' technology is based on the work of Judah Folkman, director of the vascular biology program at Children's Hospital. The company hopes that its products will eventually help detect cancer early and determine how quickly the disease is progressing to plan better treatments.

"Now the problem is that cancer detec-



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**Eugene Chiu, left, and Tony Shuber of Predictive Biosciences are focused on finding noninvasive, early-detection tools for cancer.**

tion and diagnosis are reliant on biopsy, which is an invasive technique and cannot be done in a regular way," said Eugene Chiu, co-founder and vice president of business development at Predictive.

"In today's world, by the time the biopsies are done there really isn't a good way to understand how the cancer is progressing on a regular basis. There really need to be additional tools."

Housed in Highland Capital's entrepreneur space, Predictive Biosciences has four employees and expects to move into office and lab space in Lexington early next year. In conjunction with the funding, Tony Shuber, former chief technology officer at EXACT Sciences Corp. (Nasdaq: EXAS)

of Marlborough has joined the company as CTO. Highland Capital Managing General Partner Paul Maeder and IDG Ventures General Partner Michael Greeley will serve on the company's board of directors.

"They are on the cutting edge of a number of developments in health care all at once," said Maeder. "The diagnostic area is trailing behind therapeutics. While there have been lots of advances in therapeutics, the accurate and timely diagnosis of disease has not progressed a lot in the past 15 or 20 years. There's a big opportunity to close that gap."

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