

## Web portal designed to help bio connections

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A Phoenix-based custom software developer is unveiling a Web portal next week to help bioscience researchers collaborate and share data when conducting experiments.

As collaborations become more important in growing Arizona's fledgling bioscience industry, 5AM Solutions Inc. is developing ways to help make those collaborations more effective.

The company built the Web portal for a consortium that includes the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the National Institute for Mental Health. Dietrich Stephan, director of the neurogenomics program for the Translational Genomics Research Institute, or TGen, in Phoenix, is chairman of that consortium.

Brent Gendleman, president and chief executive of 5AM Solutions, said the portal manages

the workflow of an experiment and allows researchers to work together more effectively and efficiently.

"In collaboration with TGen bioinformaticians, the software also accesses online analysis tools to provide all registered users the ability to select publicly available data, or even their own, and perform analysis that may lead to results never imagined by the original researcher," Gendleman said.



**Brent Gendleman**

Now that the Web portal is finished, it will be easy to develop custom programs for other research collaborations, he said. He plans to target the Arizona Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University and the Institute of Biomedical Science and Biotechnology at the University of Arizona because those two organizations are expected to spur future collaborations among researchers.

He said the software covers everything a business needs to function, including tracking information about patients in clinical trials and details about experiments. It also offers a peer-review process, so other researchers can use the information and give their input.

"In the end, you want to make that data public because someone else somewhere else might have a completely different line of thinking," Gendleman said. "Somebody might discover something you never intended but because the data is available, it opens that opportunity."

Michael Berens, executive director of the Expression Project for Oncology at the International Genomics Consortium in Phoenix, said IGC already is using the software.

"Brent is a visionary," Berens said of Gendleman. "There is going to be an

extremely critical need for software development. It's brand new. It's a need that is so

new because the information is so new." Gendleman said his clients pay 5AM Solutions throughout the development of the software rather than a one-time payment when the program is completed.

"As we reach certain milestones, then we bill the client," he said. "If we don't reach those milestones, they don't get billed."

He said many software companies bill their clients, regardless of reaching certain goals. "That's the best way to make money, but it's not the best way to get return business," Gendleman said. "That's why we choose to go that way. We never want to be in a position where someone has paid us for something they don't need. By working with the client, focusing on what their business needs are, you're not building pointless software." Gendleman and his partner, Rob Daly, who serves as chairman, moved to Phoenix last year to work with Stephan and capture a share of the growing bioscience industry in Arizona.

While its offices currently are housed at 1625 N. 11th Ave., Phoenix, plans call for moving to Copper Square in downtown Phoenix.

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