



MEDIA RELEASE  
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## **METASTASIS STUDY USING ASET PLATFORM FEATURED ON THE COVER OF LABORATORY INVESTIGATION**

**HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA – July 28, 2011** -- Innovascreen, Inc., a private biotechnology company focused on the ASET Platform for preclinical development of oncology compounds, announces today that work done using the ASET Platform was featured on the cover of a leading journal, *Laboratory Investigation*. The paper, entitled "Nuclear Localization of Maspin is Essential for its Inhibition of Tumor Growth and Metastasis," demonstrates that the cellular protein, maspin, acts as a potent suppressor of tumor growth and spread, but only when it is able to penetrate the nucleus.

"Cancer continues to present major challenges to drug developers," said Dr. John Lewis, President and CEO of Innovascreen and study author. "By using the ASET platform, we can monitor the effect of candidate therapeutic targets *in vivo* and in real time. The work published in *Laboratory Investigation* demonstrates that maspin must localize in the nucleus to block cancer growth and spread. These data provide a clear explanation for the apparently conflicting clinical data linking maspin expression to both good and bad prognosis in cancer patients."

The research team, which included world renowned metastasis researcher Dr. Ann Chambers of the London Regional Cancer Centre in London, ON, used the ASET platform both to measure the effect of maspin expression on cancer cell migration, and to quantify the metastatic spread of aggressive cancer cell lines. "The ASET Platform continues to demonstrate its ability in early stage cancer research," said Jeff Skinner, Director Business Development at Innovascreen. "Through partnerships, Innovascreen can generate data faster and more efficiently than comparable systems, all at a lower cost."

*Laboratory Investigation* is an international journal of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP), whose prime mission is to publish original manuscripts and review articles in the broad area of translational and basic research as is related to experimental pathology. Manuscripts dealing with research relevance

to human clinical disease are given high priority along with those which explore mechanism and etiology of disease processes. With an impact factor of 4.405, it is ranked in the top 12% of all Pathology Journals.

### ***About The ASET Platform***

Called the Avian System for Evaluating Therapeutics (ASET) Platform, the proprietary system is a combination of nanotechnology, intravital imaging, and a novel animal model creating the potential for a powerful tool in preclinical therapeutic analytics. The combination of these innovative technologies into the ASET Platform allows Innovascreen to visualize and directly measure the results of a pharmaceutical therapy in vivo in a substantially reduced time compared to conventional in vivo models.

### ***About Innovascreen***

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. Offered under collaborations, the ASET Platform is an ideal tool for the development of first in vivo data. 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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