



## **GBS Inc. Enters Sponsored Research Agreement with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health To Accelerate Development of Saliva-Based Diagnostic Tests**

February 18, 2021

NEW YORK, Feb. 18, 2021 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- GBS Inc. (Nasdaq: GBS), a life sciences company that develops non-invasive, real-time point of care (POC) diagnostic tests for patients and their primary health practitioners, today announced the execution of a sponsored research agreement with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to accelerate development of next-generation saliva-based diagnostic tests.

The sponsored research agreement marks a collaboration between GBS Inc. and the Johns Hopkins Environmental Health Microbiology and Immunology Laboratory in the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and the lab's Salivary Biomarkers and Infectious Diseases Program.

Led by Dr. Christopher Heaney, director of the Johns Hopkins Environmental Health Microbiology and Immunology Laboratory, the newly created program will support the lab's ongoing research into saliva testing and diagnostics. The research will inform GBS Inc.'s commercialization strategy for two non-invasive, rapid POC diagnostic tests already in development: the SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Biosensor and, for people living with diabetes, the Saliva Glucose Biosensor.

Research led by the Johns Hopkins Environmental Health Microbiology and Immunology Laboratory in 2020 demonstrated the potential utility of saliva testing in large-scale sero-surveillance to address key public health and clinical priorities related to the COVID-19 pandemic. [The study showed](#) that, among individuals diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 infection as confirmed by RT-PCR testing, the SARS-CoV-2-specific saliva antibody responses were comparable to with those observed in blood.

As part of the collaboration, GBS Inc. intends to work with Dr. Heaney's team to identify new biomarkers best matched to testing via a salivary matrix. Johns Hopkins Environmental Health Microbiology and Immunology Laboratory researchers will conduct in-field epidemiologic investigations using the developed POC devices to better understand the incidence and prevalence of different diseases in at-risk populations.

"We are privileged to collaborate with Dr. Heaney and his team at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to advance their world-leading research, and to contribute Dr. Heaney's mission to develop 'last mile' diagnostic options for patients globally," GBS Inc. Chief Executive Officer Harry Simeonidis said.

GBS Inc. is a subsidiary of biotechnology enterprise The iQ Group Global, a consortium of companies focused on finding, funding and developing bioscience discoveries to create life changing innovations.

"The need for accurate, rapid, non-invasive testing has never been more urgent. We look forward to working with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg Public School of Health researchers in the important mission of enabling diagnostic self-testing for people all around the world," The iQ Group Global Group Chief Executive Officer Dr. George Syrmalis said.

### **About GBS Inc.**

GBS Inc. is on a mission to put the power of non-invasive, real-time diagnostic testing in the hands of patients and their primary health practitioners at point of care. With the world-first Biosensor Platform, GBS Inc. is developing and launching diagnostic tests urgently needed to help eradicate COVID-19 and change the lives of people living with diabetes.

Visit our website: [gbs.inc](https://gbs.inc)

### **About The iQ Group Global**

The iQ Group Global is a bioscience investment consortium that finds, funds and develops bioscience discoveries to create life-changing medical innovations.

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### **Forward-Looking Statements**

Some of the statements in this release are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which involve risks and uncertainties. Forward-looking statements in this press release include, without limitation, GBS Inc.'s ability to develop and commercialize its diagnostic tests, realize commercial benefit from its partnerships and collaborations, and secure regulatory approvals, among others. Although GBS, Inc. believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable as of the date made, expectations may prove to have been materially different from the results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. GBS Inc. has attempted to identify forward-looking statements by terminology including "believes," "estimates," "anticipates," "expects," "plans," "projects," "intends," "potential," "may," "could," "might," "will," "should," "approximately" or other words that convey uncertainty of future events or outcomes to identify these forward-looking statements. These statements are only predictions and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors, included in the Company's public filings filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Any forward-looking statements contained in this release speak only as of its date. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this release to reflect events or circumstances occurring after its date or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Investor Contact:**

LifeSci Advisors, LLC  
Jeremy Feffer - Managing Director  
212-915-2568  
[jeremy@lifesciadvisors.com](mailto:jeremy@lifesciadvisors.com)

**Company Contact:**

Gemma Garkut, Director  
+61 2 8239 5400  
[gemma.garkut@theiggroupglobal.com](mailto:gemma.garkut@theiggroupglobal.com)