

# DISEASE “snapshot”

**By Ashley Ford**  
**Staff Report**

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A Vancouver private company has become the first in the world to offer a commercial protein-screening process that will help treat hundreds of human diseases including cancer, diabetes and neurological disorders.

The system literally can take a snapshot of a person’s individual diseases, says Dr. Steven Pelech, President of Kinexus Bioinformatics Corp

He told a news conference at the Pacific Rim Biotechnology conference in Vancouver yesterday the system currently has the capability of conducting 20,000 screenings a year with potential revenue of \$10 million

A medical practitioner would deliver tissue samples to Kinexus and get results back, via the Internet, in two weeks for a cost of \$750.

Every cell in the human body has its own molecular computer, and Pelech says the proteins within the cells communicate and carry out everything the cell does.

“We can now track these proteins and that, in turn, will essentially allow drug therapies to be targeted for each individual’s illness,” he said.

“This screening process provides powerful tools for the discoveries of new drug targets, new drugs and molecular diagnosis of disease, said Pelech, who is also a professor at the University of BC.

The advance has caught the eye of several investors and a syndicate led by Milestone Medica Corporation, including BIRC Capital Corp., BioFuture Fund Capital Corporation and an angel investor have raised \$2.2 million in financing for the fledgling organization, another incubator spin-off from UBC.

He said the system was developed over two years, combining the work of about 17 scientists and software workers.