



## Akoya and AstraZeneca to Collaborate on Spatial Biology Approach to Profiling Tumor-Immune Biology

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### Partnership aims to leverage spatial biology data, generated on Akoya's Phenoptics™ platform, to inform and guide drug development programs

MARLBOROUGH, Mass., June 04, 2021 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Akoya Biosciences, Inc., (Nasdaq: AKYA) The Spatial Biology Company®, today announced a collaboration with AstraZeneca to advance new multiplex immunofluorescence (mIF) workflows and spatial biomarker signatures, based on Akoya's Phenoptics™ platform. The agreement between one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies and a top innovator in spatial biology technologies has the aim of elucidating the immune biology of cancer, in greater detail, to streamline drug development, clinical trials, and biomarker discovery.

Immunotherapies, a rapidly growing treatment modality, utilize the immune system to combat cancer and are revolutionizing the field of oncology. While they have shown tremendous promise, only a subset of patients achieves durable response, impacting drug efficacy rates and approvals. There is a pressing need for predictive biomarkers that can accurately stratify responders from non-responders. However, identifying suitable biomarkers requires an in-depth understanding of tumor pathophysiology. A recent multi-institutional study of immuno-oncology biomarker modalities found that mIF-based spatial biomarkers have the potential to address this gap by analyzing the spatial architecture of tumor tissue sections, and mapping how tumor and immune cells organize and interact within the tumor microenvironment.<sup>1</sup>

With this collaboration, AstraZeneca's immuno-oncology division will partner with [Advanced Biopharma Solutions \(ABS\)](#), a premium service offering from Akoya, to leverage the comprehensive spatial phenotyping capabilities of the Phenoptics™ platform to study drug mechanism of action, confirm target biology prevalence, and discover predictive signatures for subsequent trial designs. The aim of this collaboration will be the development and implementation of predictive assays and analysis frameworks to enable AstraZeneca, and the pharmaceutical industry in general, to advance a spatial biomarker-informed drug development strategy for immunotherapy. The results could lead to increased trial success rates and advancement of precision medicine.

"We are very pleased to work with AstraZeneca and share their commitment in enabling next-generation innovations in the field of immuno-oncology," said Brian McKelligon, Chief Executive Officer of Akoya. "The combination of AstraZeneca's scientific leadership in immuno-oncology and Akoya's groundbreaking spatial biology capabilities promises to reshape the future of biomarker development and ultimately cancer care."

Akoya's ABS team will be exhibiting at the American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Virtual Meeting from June 4 to 8 at booth 5067a. To book a meeting, click [here](#).

### About Akoya Biosciences

As The Spatial Biology Company®, Akoya Biosciences' mission is to bring context to the world of biology and human health through the power of spatial phenotyping. The company offers comprehensive single-cell imaging solutions that allow researchers to phenotype cells with spatial context and visualize how they organize and interact to influence disease progression and treatment response. Akoya offers two distinct solutions, the CODEX® and Phenoptics™ platforms, to serve the diverse needs of researchers across discovery, translational and clinical research. To learn more about Akoya, visit [www.akoyabio.com](http://www.akoyabio.com).

### Cautionary Note Regarding Forward Looking Statements

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" under applicable securities laws. In some cases, such statements can be identified by words such as: "may," "will," "could," "would," "should," "expect," "intend," "plan," "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "predict," "project," "potential," "continue," "ongoing" or the negative of these terms or other comparable terminology, although not all forward-looking statements contain these words. Forward-looking statements include express or implied statements regarding our ability to achieve our business strategies, growth, or other future events or conditions. Such statements are based on our current beliefs, expectations, and assumptions about future events or conditions, which are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties, including the risks and uncertainties discussed in the filings we make from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Actual results may differ materially from those indicated in forward-looking statements, and you should not place undue reliance on them. All statements herein are based only on information currently available to us and speak only as of the date hereof. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to update any such statement.

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<sup>1</sup> Lu S, Stein JE, Rimm DL, et al. Comparison of Biomarker Modalities for Predicting Response to PD-1/PD-L1 Checkpoint Blockade: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *JAMA Oncol.* 2019