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**RENOWNED GENOMICS EXPERT, STEPHEN W. SCHERER, JOINS  
COMBIMATRIX MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS' SCIENCE ADVISORY  
BOARD**

Newport Beach, Calif. – (BUSINESS WIRE) – May 31, 2006 – Acacia Research Corporation (Nasdaq: CBMX:ACTG) announced today that its CombiMatrix group's wholly-owned subsidiary, CombiMatrix Molecular Diagnostics, has named renowned genomics expert Stephen W. Scherer, Ph.D. to its scientific advisory board (SAB).

Dr. Scherer is a Senior Scientist in Genetics and Genomic Biology at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) and Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto. He is also Director of The Centre for Applied Genomics and Associate Chief of Research at Sick Kids. He is one of the world's leading scientists, making contributions toward understanding the composition of the human genome for studies of genetic disease. His recent work characterizes structural variation in the human genome and examines the role genetics has in autism. He has published over 200 articles and won numerous awards, including an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Windsor, Canada's "Top 40 under 40" award, and the 2004 Steacie Prize in the Natural Sciences. He is an investigator of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, International Scholar of the Howard Hughes Medical Institutes of Health Research, and currently chairs Genome Canada's Science Advisory Board.

"The research community is making exciting discoveries in the field of human genetics at a very rapid pace," said Dr. Scherer. "Unfortunately, many of these discoveries are taking a long time to reach the clinic, where they can actually help patients. CombiMatrix Molecular Diagnostics is committed to working collaboratively with researchers around the world to turn these discoveries into valuable diagnostic tests, and I am excited to be a part of that endeavor. I am particularly impressed with CombiMatrix's uniquely versatile platform, which finally offers researchers the type of flexibility in array content design that is critical in the initial stages of genomics-based diagnostics."

"I am very pleased to have someone of Dr. Scherer's considerable accomplishment in the field of human genomics join our science advisory board," said Dr. Mansoor Mohammed, President and Chief Operations Officer for CMDX. "He brings to our team a wealth of knowledge and experience that will help accelerate our efforts to make high-value gene-based diagnostic tests available to doctors and their patients."

More information about Dr. Scherer can be found at <http://www.tcag.ca/scherer/>.

**ABOUT ACACIA RESEARCH CORPORATION**

Acacia Research Corporation comprises two operating groups: Acacia Technologies Group and CombiMatrix Group.

The CombiMatrix group is developing a platform technology to rapidly produce customizable arrays, which are semiconductor-based tools for use in identifying and determining the roles of genes, gene mutations and proteins. The CombiMatrix's group's technology has a wide range of potential applications in the areas of genomics, proteomics, biosensors, drug discovery, drug development, diagnostics, combinatorial chemistry, material sciences and nanotechnology.

The Acacia Technologies group develops, acquires, and licenses patented technologies. Acacia controls 44 patent portfolios, which include over 160 U.S. patents, and certain foreign counterparts, covering technologies used in a wide variety of industries including audio/video enhancement & synchronization, broadcast data retrieval, computer memory cache coherency, credit card fraud protection, database management, data encryption & product activation, digital media transmission (DMT<sup>®</sup>), digital video production, dynamic manufacturing modeling, enhanced Internet navigation, high resolution optics, image resolution enhancement, interactive data sharing, interactive television, hearing aid ECS, interstitial Internet advertising, laptop docking station connectivity, microprocessor enhancement, multi-dimensional bar codes, network data storage, resource scheduling, rotational video imaging and spreadsheet automation.

Acacia Research-Acacia Technologies (Nasdaq: ACTG) and Acacia Research-CombiMatrix (Nasdaq: CBMX) are both classes of common stock issued by Acacia Research Corporation and are intended to reflect the performance of the respective operating groups and are not issued by the operating groups.

Information about the Acacia Technologies Group and the CombiMatrix Group is available at [www.acaciaresearch.com](http://www.acaciaresearch.com).

**Safe Harbor Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995:**

*This news release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based upon our current expectations and speak only as of the date hereof. Our actual results may differ materially and adversely from those expressed in any forward-looking statements as a result of various factors and uncertainties, including the economic slowdown affecting technology companies, our ability to successfully develop products, rapid technological change in our markets, changes in demand for our future products, legislative, regulatory and competitive developments and general economic conditions. Our Annual Report on Form 10-K, recent and forthcoming Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, recent Current Reports on Forms 8-K and 8-K/A, and other SEC filings discuss some of the important risk factors that may affect our business, results of operations and financial condition. We undertake no obligation to revise or update publicly any forward-looking statements for any reason.*