

GENOMICS

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1 INTRODUCTION

In the past five to ten years a growing number of new drugs have been discovered using a target-based approach [1], implying a significant paradigm shift in the pharmaceutical industry. This shift has been facilitated by the decoding of the complete sequence of the human genome [2–4]. Today, a significant portion of the research and development (R&D) effort in the pharmaceutical industry is focused on drug target identification and validation. This paradigm change also requires that new