

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## EXIT Real Estate Office Partners with University of Chicago on Home Microbiome Study

### Science as it happens

**Downers Grove, IL (Grassroots Newswire) 1/23/2012** -- You leave quite an impression, biologically speaking. EXIT Real Estate Partners is excited to team up with University of Chicago scientists on the Home Microbiome Study, which is being funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The study will investigate the ways in which we interact with the living surfaces of our home, and the fundamental impact humans have on the composition of microbes in the home.

Taking samples from floors, countertops, and other household surfaces both before and after owners move in, the University of Chicago research team will use advanced gene sequencing techniques to catalog how human occupancy changes the communities of microbes that live side by side with us, and help craft a new understanding of the dynamic interaction between humans and the microbes in the surrounding environment.

Owner Brian Kwilosz states "EXIT Real Estate Partners is very proud and honored to have been selected to participate in this project. This presents a unique opportunity for our clients, and homeowners in general to be a part of scientific research as it happens. It's not very often that we get to be a part of something like this. To be able work hand in hand with prominent scientists working on a project of this significance is a special thing."

The research has the potential to reveal important new facts about the microbial environment. "We live in a balanced world between good bacteria and bad bacteria, and this epic equilibrium is occurring all over our bodies and our homes," said Dr. Jack A. Gilbert of Argonne National Laboratory, who is leading the U. Chicago team. "This study aims to discover how stable that balance is. When people move into a house, they are moving into a 'strangers' house, and a whole new bacterial world. It is likely that the new tenants will have a big influence on the bacteria living on the walls, floor, surfaces and light switches - and vice versa - but we have no details of that relationship. We will discover what the impact is, and also determine what influence this might have on people's health."

The collaboration between EXIT Real Estate Partners and Dr. Gilbert's team is part of what drew the Sloan Foundation's attention. "This is an exciting project not only because it promises to shed light on the very important issue of how and to what extent human beings change the microbial environments around us," said Dr. Paula J. Olsiewski, Program Director at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, "but also because it represents a unique partnership between the scientists who study our homes, and the industry professionals who build, furnish, and sell them. The collaboration between EXIT Real Estate Partners and the University of Chicago team is opening new frontiers for discovery."

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation is a philanthropic, not-for-profit grantmaking institution based in New York City. Established in 1934 by Alfred Pritchard Sloan Jr., then-President and Chief Executive Officer of the General Motors Corporation, the Foundation makes grants in support of original research and education in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and economic performance. [www.sloan.org](http://www.sloan.org).

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For more information about EXIT Real Estate Partners, please call 630-967-0400. EXIT Real Estate Partners is located at 6900 S. Main, suite #206, Downers Grove, IL 60516.

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