City will be a gene machine when New York Genome Center settles down in headquarters

Center expected to create 500 jobs over next 5 years

BY PHYLIS FURMAN / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
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Nancy Kelley, executive director of the New York Genome Center, hopes to foster scientific breakthroughs.

New York City is about to make a big leap in becoming a major center for DNA sequencing.

The New York Genome Center, a nonprofit backed by 11 of the city’s leading medical institutions, is close to securing a permanent headquarters, a move that could propel the city from a laggard into a leader in biotech, its executive director, Nancy Kelley, told the Daily News.

The center, the first ever for the city, is close to signing a lease for 150,000 square feet at 101 Sixth Ave. in SoHo, according to reports.

“I hope our scientists will make important contributions to cancer, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s,” said Kelley, who declined to comment on the location of the headquarters.

The center, which is set to open its doors in the spring of 2013, is expected to create 500 jobs over the next five years, Kelley said.

Sean Penn, Charlize Theron’s in relationship: ‘She’s a keeper’ Piers Morgan confirmed the couple’s relationship in a blog post written after he attended Penn’s charity benefit on Jan. 11.

Stars who wear sheer clothing
With the paparazzi ready to snap their every move, you would think that celebrities would be smart enough to cover up before walking out in sheer clothing for fear of过度exposure. Or is that the point? See who’s playing a fashionable game of peek-a-boo and who is making a huge fashion mistake.

Wendy Williams breaks down on show over son
Wendy Williams broke down in tears on Monday’s episode of “The Wendy Williams Show.” While chatting about the buzz surrounding Madonna using the N-word in an Instagram post with her 13-year-old son Rocco, the daytime host got very emotional about her own child, Kevin Jr., 13.

L.t. grandma helped fleece banks of $49M: feds
The feds say 74-year-old Long Island granny Mae Rabuffo controlled the purse strings for a $49 million real estate fraud scheme with her ex-husband, a former Genovese mob associate.

We all know Rihanna is a good girl gone bad, but sometimes the Barbadian beauty goes above and beyond her usual naughtiness. From risque photo shoots to wearing nothing but body paint, check out the sexy singer’s most Rated R moments.

Oregon teen tells TV crew covering roommate’s stabbing: ‘I did it’
Founded two years ago, the New York Genome Center has already raised $115 million and is in the process of raising $25 million more.

The group had been one of the entrants in a city competition to build an applied sciences campus on Roosevelt Island, but lost out to Cornell University and Technion-Israel Institute of Technology.

The center’s backers, which include Illumina, a developer of DNA-sequencing technology, and pharmaceutical giant Roche, as well as the New York City Economic Development Corp., see big potential.

The cost of human sequencing, where machines take a blood or saliva sample and use it to decode a person’s DNA, is rapidly falling: It now costs about $3,600 and is heading as low as $1,000.

At the same time, DNA sequencing is seen as an increasingly important tool in diagnosing and treating serious illnesses.

For years, New York has lagged behind cities like Cambridge, St. Louis, Seattle and Houston. But that’s about to change, Kelley said.

"New York lost the genomic decade. That’s the bad news," she said.

“The good news is that the last 10 years probably have seen the greatest development of new technology and new ways to store data than we have ever seen before. So now we have the ability to take those new technologies and to build a center that is different from anything that exists anywhere else.

“We can leapfrog,” she said. “We can do it right the first time.”

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EMT who allegedly refused to help dying pregnant woman, shot in face outside club
An FDNY emergency medical technician accused of ignoring a dying pregnant woman while on a break last year was shot and killed outside a Manhattan nightclub early Sunday, police and FDNY officials said.

Teen says partner, 43, died in consensual sex act
An Arizona teen arrested after a 43-year-old man was found dead with a cord around his neck claims he died during a consensual sex act. The 16-year-old reportedly confessed to cops she was erotically strangling and cutting Jason Ash — with his approval — before he passed out in her Phoenix apartment at 5:45 p.m.

Wife of man shot for texting calls his death...
The widow of a man who police say was shot and killed in a Florida movie theater for merely texting said Wednesday her “whole world got shattered.” In a brief press conference in Tampa, Nicole Oulson, speaking for the first time since the shooting last week, held back tears describing how a date with her husband, Chad Oulson, became a nightmare.

Possible shooting at University of Oklahoma
The school was been placed on lock down as authorities investigate the reported shooting, the school said.

Bruce Springsteen’s son becomes firefighter in New Jersey
Streets of fire? Firefighter Sam Springsteen, youngest son of the Boss, is on the case. Springsteen, 20, graduated from the Monmouth County Fire Academy last week after completing 188 rigorous hours of training, officials said.

SEE IT: Is this the mugshot of the year?
Is this the mugshot of the year already? Wild-eyed Arena Arnold is at least a sure-fire contender after being busted for alleged criminal impersonation Monday. Cops say the upstate New Yorker tried to pass herself off as a passenger after driving drunk and crashing a car, reports WHEC.

Two movies revved up Sundance midweek: a comedy about Brooklynites who’ve had enough and a drama about a woman who can’t get enough.

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