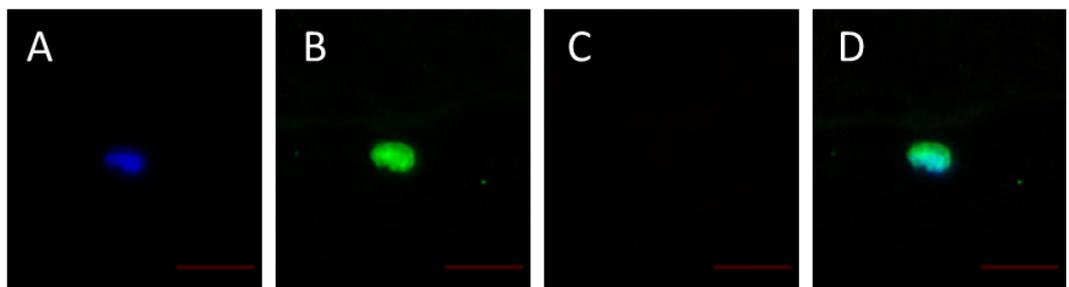


Press Release. 13.11.2014

Pancreatic Cancer Patient organizations have selected **November 13<sup>th</sup>** as the first **World Pancreatic Cancer Day**. Pancreatic cancer is often diagnosed too late, with the disease at an advanced stage and consequently a poor prognosis with high morbidity and mortality. With no primary tumor tissue available in most cases for disease characterization CTCs are to date the most relevant biomarkers, but CTC detection requires more reliable and sensitive cell sorting technologies.

The **CanDo** consortium, which is developing a diagnostic instrument for enhancing pancreatic cancer patient care, and the **CanDo** partner **GILUPI**, an innovator in medical devices for *in vivo* isolation of rare cells directly from a patient's blood stream, announce promising results from the first patient applications of the **GILUPI CellCollector™**. Although other EpCAM based CTC technologies typically have low detection frequencies, CTCs could be detected with the **GILUPI CellCollector™** in **three out of five patients**. This innovative technology overcomes the restrictions of a limited blood sample found in the other technologies by directly isolating the CTCs in the blood stream, thereby capturing the CTCs, *in vivo*. To do so the **GILUPI CellCollector™** is placed the patient's arm vein via an indwelling catheter (size 20 G, pink) and remains there for 30 min.

Visual examination of isolated CTCs on the **GILUPI CellCollector™** was conducted by immunofluorescence microscopy with Hoechst<sup>+</sup>/Keratin<sup>+</sup>/EpCAM<sup>+</sup>/CD45<sup>-</sup> cells counted as CTCs (see Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1:** Immunofluorescence image of an isolated CTC (scale bar 20µm)  
A: Hoechst33342 staining, B: Keratin/EpCAM staining, C: CD45 staining, D: merge

Afterwards, the isolated CTCs can then undergo further molecular characterization.

These preliminary results demonstrate that CTCs can be detected with high detection frequencies. Thus, a significant advance in early stage cancer diagnostics and monitoring for use in cancer management and drug development has been given by the new technology.

