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GILUPI participates in European consortium to validate blood-based biomarkers for cancer

Blood-based biomarkers such as circulating tumor cells (CTCs), circulating free tumor DNA (cfDNA) and microRNAs (miRNAs) are established indicators of tumor burden in cancer patients. Assessment of these markers from blood provides an invaluable tool for modern cancer therapy. In addition to being of high importance when biopsies of the original tumor are not accessible, blood-based liquid biopsy tests allow for close follow-up of disease markers to monitor treatment efficacy and potentially improve the choice of treatment options.

CANCER-ID is a newly formed European consortium funded by the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) comprised of 33 partners from 13 countries focused on establishment of standard protocols and clinical validation of blood-based biomarkers (EGFR and HER2) in NSCLC and HER2-therapy resistant metastatic breast cancer. The consortium brings together experts from academic and clinical research, innovative Small-to-Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs), diagnostics companies and the pharmaceutical industry - thus providing a unique setting for expanding the clinical utility of liquid biopsies. The project is supported by a substantial budget of EUR 14.5 million provided by industry partners (8.2 million EUR) as well as the IMI Joint Undertaking (EUR 6.3 million). The academic leads of the CANCER-ID consortium are Prof. Klaus Pantel, Head of the Department of Tumor Biology at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany, and Prof. Leon Terstappen, Head of the Department of Medical Cell Biophysics at the University of Twente, The Netherlands. Both are leaders in the field and have an impressive track record in basic research and applied science including device development. The EFPIA lead companies of the CANCER-ID consortium are Bayer HealthCare and Silicon Biosystems, a Menarini Group Company.

Klaus Luecke, CEO and founder of GILUPI commented: "This project is a major step for GILUPI, as it will demonstrate the superior performance of GILUPI technology in the isolation of CTCs for testing and monitoring of cancer patients. The isolation and subsequent characterization of blood-based biomarkers will become increasingly important as a method to monitor disease progression and therapy response. We believe that the liquid biopsy approach - with less-invasive and more frequent testing - will soon become part of the clinical routine for the benefit of a wide range of cancer patients.

www.cancer-id.eu

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