

Press release

Panel-based molecular diagnostics for infectious diseases: Biomnis partners with American laboratory Diatherix

Lyon, 13 June 2016. Biomnis, the European leader in the specialised medical pathology sector, announces its collaboration with Diatherix in the field of diagnostics for infectious diseases.

Based on a deep synergy between their scientific and medical activities, this partnership focuses on a sharing of expertise between Diatherix and Biomnis in order to reach a common goal: to provide innovative and reliable tests for improved diagnosis of infectious diseases.

A partnership in keeping with the Biomnis tradition

Since being established more than a century ago, Biomnis has had a long history of research and has been dedicated to the fight against infectious diseases. Building on this historic legacy, the laboratory continues this excellence in the screening and diagnosis of infectious diseases. With more than 70 dedicated employees and in particular its ability to develop home-made PCR techniques, the Department of Infectious Diseases at Biomnis is one of the most important in France.

After becoming part of the Eurofins Scientific group last October, Biomnis has forged close ties with other specialist laboratories that are part of this world leader in bio-analysis, in order to seek synergies in the context of its innovation and development activities.

Against this backdrop, it is natural that Biomnis and Diatherix have come together to pool their respective expertise in infectious diseases.

Diatherix, an innovative player in panel-based molecular diagnostics for infectious diseases

Based in the United States, Diatherix specialises in molecular diagnostics tests using its own TEM-PCR™ (*Targeted Enriched Multiplex Polymerase Chain Reaction*) technology.

This patented technology, validated by the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute, enables the company to offer a new diagnostic approach using panels of tests for specific conditions.

Diatherix offers American hospitals and medical practices approximately twenty panels, enabling diagnosis of the aetiology of, for example, respiratory, intestinal and genito-urinary infections; each panel tests for a number of pathogens frequently implicated in these diseases.

This panel- and system-based approach, coupled with this innovative technology, has many advantages:

- simultaneous detection and identification of numerous pathogens (viruses, bacteria, parasites, etc.)
- high specificity levels
- one single sample
- rapid turnaround time of results

Offering the latest tests to patients and their doctors

Each and every day, Biomnis strives to ensure that every patient, wherever they may be, has access to the most highly specialised and innovative techniques for diagnosis, monitoring and treatment management.

The panel-based molecular approach is a real game-changer in the management of infectious diseases. Earlier and more rapid diagnostics makes it possible to plan appropriate anti-infective

treatment from the outset, thus helping limit the effects of excessive use of antibiotics (morbidity, resistance, etc.). The development of this approach will have both medical and socioeconomic benefits.

Thanks to this partnership, Biomnis can make use of Diatherix's scientific and technological know-how to accelerate the development of new tests and panels for molecular diagnostics that can be offered to all of its clients.

As a key player in the service of public health, Biomnis will thus be able to play a role in this new step in the treatment of infectious diseases in the coming months.

Spotlight on TEM-PCR™ technology

TEM-PCR™ is a powerful, rapid and innovative technology based on multiplex PCR using 3 pairs of primers.

The first phase is a nested PCR multiplex with 2 pairs of primers specific to each target in the panel, allowing the amplification of each target and resulting in an increase in the specificity of detection.

One of these pairs of primers includes a sequence of adapters which makes it possible to fix the third pair of primers.

This third pair of primers, called the *superprimer*, is then used to mark and amplify all the targets.

Marked PCR products are then hybridised on *microarrays* (DNA chips).

About Biomnis

Biomnis is the European leader in the sector of specialised medical pathology and carries out over 32,000 analyses per day from a range of over 2,500 tests available, including specialised tests for which the company has the appropriate authorisations.

Since being founded in 1897 by Marcel Mérieux, Biomnis has been recognised for its expertise in the screening and diagnosis of infectious diseases, and it has in particular been offering a "Paediatric Respiratory Panel" for several years. As a key player in the field of public health, Biomnis has developed its own PCR techniques PCR (H1N1, Zika, etc.) and works closely with specialised centres for reference and health authorities such as the InVS [French Institute for Public Health Surveillance].

Biomnis has been dedicated to medical testing for over 100 years and remains the reference service provider in the field of specialised medical pathology in France. It has maintained its position through continuous technological innovation and investment, particularly in the areas of female biology, oncology and personalised medicine, as well as chromosomal and molecular genetics.

www.biomnis.com

About Diatherix

Diatherix Laboratories, LLC, is located in the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology in Huntsville, Alabama. Diatherix operates as an independent, high complexity, CAP-accredited clinical laboratory providing advanced multiplex molecular diagnostic services to assist healthcare providers in the simultaneous detection of bacteria, viruses, parasites, Candida and antibiotic resistance related to infectious diseases – providing one-day results and single-sample collection.

www.diatherix.com

About Eurofins

Eurofins Scientific is the world leader in food, environment and pharmaceutical products testing. It is also one of the global market leaders in agrosience, genomics, discovery pharmacology, and central laboratory services. In addition, Eurofins is one of the key emerging players in specialty clinical diagnostic testing in Europe and the USA.

With more than 20,000 employees and a network of over 200 laboratories in 39 countries, as well as a rich portfolio of over 130,000 analytical methods for evaluating the safety, identity, composition, authenticity, origin and purity of biological substances and numerous products, the group offers its clients analytical services of high quality, rapid and reliable results, as well as advice by highly qualified experts.

The group plans to pursue a development strategy based on the continuous expansion of its technology portfolio and its geographic reach. Through R&D programs and acquisitions, the group draws on the latest technological developments, which enable it to offer its clients an unrivalled range of analytical solutions and the most comprehensive range of testing methods.

As one of the most innovative international players in its industry, Eurofins is ideally positioned to meet the increasingly stringent quality and safety requirements of its clients and of regulatory agencies worldwide.

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