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SmartGene announces clinical research collaboration with France's Centre of Excellence for the study and treatment of hepatitis viruses at the Virology Laboratory and National Reference Center for Viral Hepatitis B, C and delta at Hospital Henri Mondor, University Paris-Est, Paris, France.

Zug, Switzerland: 23rd of January, 2020: SmartGene today announced that it has entered into a scientific collaboration with France's Centre of Excellence for the study and treatment of hepatitis viruses at University Paris-Est and the Hospital Henri Mondor. Together, the teams at SmartGene and Mondor will collaborate, initially on a variety of clinical research projects which will address key gaps in the understanding of Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection and the management of patients who are chronically infected with HCV.

"We are excited to broaden and deepen our existing relationship with SmartGene," said Professor Stéphane CHEVALIEZ, Chief of the Virology Unit at Hospital Henri Mondor. "We will be taking advantage of SmartGene's technology to build a large, multi-year, longitudinal database of viral sequences and other relevant metadata for our HCV patient population, which will help us to tackle some of the open questions in HCV research and clinical care. For example, we will be able to store securely and mine next generation sequencing (NGS) datasets, to understand better which mutations in the virus are associated with resistance to direct-acting antiviral (DAA) therapy and to predict which patients are likely to fail standard therapy approaches."

"Working with the world-renowned team at Hospital Henri Mondor in the field of HCV is an important milestone for SmartGene," added Stefan EMLER, CEO of SmartGene GmbH. "Our IDNS[®] Data-management and interpretation solutions will help the scientists at Mondor to assess the increasingly complex diversity of HCV, viral subpopulations and resistance-related mutations, and thus improve the scientific community's understanding of the virus' pathogenesis and resistance to therapy."

This new collaboration is intended both to fuel multiple publications in the scientific literature in the years ahead, and to streamline the analytical process of Sanger and next generation sequencing of HCV for routine practice. The ultimate goal is to deliver new insights which will improve tangibly the care of patients afflicted with HCV.

About SmartGene

SmartGene is a bioinformatics, application service provider (ASP) delivering secure, integrated, software solutions (SaaS) for the analysis, interpretation, and data management of genetic sequences. Customers worldwide use SmartGene's cloud-based modules for multiple applications, including HIV, HCV, and Influenza genotyping and drug resistance analysis, bacterial and fungal identification, microbiome analysis, strain typing, and molecular epidemiology of viruses and bacteria.

SmartGene provides specific medical, clinical research, industrial and epidemiological surveillance applications designed for routine workflows from sequencing raw data (Sanger, NGS) to comprehensive reports. Frequently updated, quality-controlled, reference databases, interpretative algorithms, specifically parameterized bioinformatics tools, and customized, searchable, sequence databases are integrated within SmartGene's solutions which are CE-IVD labeled and compatible with the requirements of 21 CFR Part 11.

Find out more at: www.smartgene.com.

About Virology Laboratory at Hospital Henri Mondor:

The Virology Laboratory at the University Hospital Henri Mondor APHP (Creteil, Paris, France) is a leader in viral diagnostics, education, and research. It is part of the Department for Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Infections (PDTI) and affiliated to the Division for Biology and Pathology of the University Hospital Henri Mondor. Beside its activities in diagnostics for hepatitis viruses (A, B, C, delta, E) and retroviruses (HIV, HTLV), it also covers the full scale of diagnostic virology, especially for immunocompromised patients and for community-acquired infections. The laboratory encompasses the National Reference Centers for France for Hepatitis B, C, and Delta, with activities in identification and characterization of viral isolates, resistance assessment, development of novel diagnostic techniques and education, and the INSERM U955 Research Group 18, with its activity in fundamental research on these viruses. The leader of this laboratory, the professor J.-M. Pawlotsky, and its team are world-renowned specialists in their field, with an extensive track record of peer-reviewed publications and academic accomplishments.

Find out more at:

<http://www.vhc-henrimondor.com/fr/centre-national-de-referencedes-hepatites-b-c-et-delta/mission-de-service-public/>