

Singapore Start-up Licenses SMART's Microfluidics Technology

Singapore MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART) Centre announced today that Clearbridge Biomedics, a Singapore onco-diagnostic start-up, has acquired worldwide exclusive license of its new patent pending cell isolation technique.

Clearbridge BioMedics is a spin-off from the National University of Singapore and part of the Clearbridge Accelerator technology incubator, which is supported by the National Research Foundation and SPRING Singapore. Clearbridge BioMedics specialises in commercialising novel technologies for cancer research and diagnostics.

The new technology developed by the **SMART Centre's Inter-Disciplinary Group, BioSystems and Micromechanics (BioSyM)** will drive Clearbridge BioMedics' next generation ClearCell™ System for circulating tumor cells (CTCs) isolation and retrieval from blood. Approximately 12.7 million new cancer cases were diagnosed around the world in 2008 with a projected increase in the number of cases to 20 million by 2030. Separating and detecting rare circulating tumor cells (CTCs) in blood early, before the tumor has metastasized, can significantly increase the patients' survival chance. With the unique ability to retrieve these extremely rare cells intact, the ClearCell™ system will revolutionize personalized cancer treatment and companion diagnostics.



About SMART

The Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART) is a research centre of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) established in partnership with the National Research Foundation (NRF) of Singapore. SMART was founded in July 2007 with the mission of carrying out research to address critical problems of societal importance, problems that require interdisciplinary global collaboration. In addition, SMART aims to

instill and promote a culture of translational research and entrepreneurship, as well as to help educate the next generation of leaders for academia and industry. The faculty, postdoctoral researchers and students from MIT work at the SMART Centre in collaboration with researchers from Singapore who come from the universities, research institutes, hospitals and government agencies.

The SMART Centre is organized into 5 interdisciplinary research groups (IRGs), including the BioSyM IRG of engineers and scientists who developed the aforementioned microfluidics device technology, and an Innovation Centre. For more information on SMART and BioSyM, visit smart.mit.edu.

About Clearbridge BioMedics

Clearbridge BioMedics specialises in novel platforms with applications in oncology research and diagnostics. It is a National University of Singapore spin-off company that is committed to developing medical devices which will impact the world and revolutionize cancer diagnostics and patient care by leveraging groundbreaking technology from research partners. The ClearCell™ System comprises patent-pending CTChips®, which are microfluidic biochips able to effectively detect, isolate and retrieve wholly-intact circulating tumor cells (CTCs) from small quantities of patient blood samples. Headquartered in Singapore, Clearbridge BioMedics currently has customers spanning Asia, Europe and North America. For more information, visit www.clearbridgebiomedics.com.

23rd Oct 2012