
QIAGEN Marseille acquires exclusive rights from Inserm Transfert SA and Inserm on HSP110 mutations for colorectal cancer.

Marseille, January 7, 2013 - QIAGEN Marseille, previously IPSOGEN (Alternext - FR0010626028 – ALIPS), a cancer ‘profiler’ that develops, manufactures and markets molecular diagnostic tests for cancers, and an affiliate of QIAGEN, today announces the signature of an agreement with Inserm Transfert for a worldwide license on mutations of the HSP110 gene.

Detection of HSP110 mutations will enable physicians to identify so-called Microsatellite Instability (MSI), a genetic abnormality which occurs in around 15% of all Colorectal Cancers (CRC). MSI arises as a result of defective Mismatch Repair (MMR¹) caused by the failure of one of the four main MMR genes, MSH2, MLH1, MSH6, or PMS2. MSI patients have a more favorable outcome and a different response to chemotherapeutic agents. Moreover, approx. one third of these MSI CRC cases correspond to Lynch syndrome, an inherited form of CRC for which making an accurate diagnosis is important since they have a higher risk of developing a second cancer.

A. Duval and colleagues from Inserm have recently reported in Nature Medicine² that a previously unknown mutation in the gene encoding the heat-shock protein (HSP)110 chaperone is associated with increased survival and a better treatment response in MSI CRC. HSP110 promotes the survival of malignant cells by protecting oncogenic proteins from degradation and suppressing apoptosis.

Based on these findings, QIAGEN Marseille aims at developing molecular assays that could be used by diagnostic laboratories in their routine practice.

QIAGEN Marseille’s CEO, Vincent Fert stated: *“The HSP110 mutation assay will complement the QIAGEN Therascreen CRC companion diagnostics portfolio that includes KRAS and BRAF assays, for the management of colorectal cancers. It could provide an easier way to establish the MSI phenotype and potentially bring more useful information to clinicians. This agreement, established with a renowned institution involved in world-class cancer research, exemplifies our strategy of building value on key biomarkers to improve cancer patient management”*.

“We believe personalized medicine is one of the major forthcoming challenges in modern medicine. We are very proud to contribute, in this strategic domain for patient’s therapy, to the consolidated development of a European biotechnology company, within a competitive international setting” Said Cécile Tharaud, CEO, Inserm Transfert.

¹ The MMR system repairs base mismatches after DNA replication, inhibits recombination between non-identical DNA sequences and provokes apoptotic responses following certain types of DNA damage.

² Expression of a mutant HSP110 sensitizes colorectal cancer cells to chemotherapy and improves disease prognosis. Nat Med. 2011 Sep 25;17(10):1283-9.

About QIAGEN Marseille

QIAGEN Marseille develops molecular diagnostic tests designed to map diseases in order to guide patients and oncologists' decisions along their complex therapeutic path.

With more than 80 tests already used routinely worldwide for the diagnosis, prognosis and follow-up of thousands of patients with blood cancer, QIAGEN Marseille is also developing diagnostic tools targeting other cancers. Its goal is to provide information, remaining unavailable until now, to sustain the development of personalized medicine.

Founded as IPSOGEN in 1999, the company is, since July 2011, a subsidiary of the QIAGEN group, the leading global provider of sample and assay technologies.

From January 1st 2013, IPSOGEN has changed its Company name to QIAGEN Marseille. The company, located in Marseille, France, employed 76 people as of June 30, 2012.

Further information can be found at www.qiagenmarseille.com

About Inserm Transfert

Founded in 2000, InsermTransfert SA is the private subsidiary of the French National Institute of the Health and Medical Research (Inserm), dedicated to technology transfer (from invention disclosure to industrial partnership). InsermTransfert manages European and International research projects, supports large scale projects in epidemiology and public health.

Since 2009, Inserm Transfert has run a proof of concept fund. The company is also committed to seed financing in the biotech sector, through its dedicated seed fund company Inserm Transfert Initiative.

Further information can be found at www.inserm-transfert.fr

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