



## Molecular diagnostic programme for better cancer treatment kicks off

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Luxembourg and Gosselies, Belgium, 29 October 2018 – the INC (Institut National du Cancer) is pleased to announce the start of MDLUX2, a molecular diagnostics programme funded by the Fondation Cancer, the Fondatioun Kriibskrank Kanner and IBBL (Integrated BioBank of Luxembourg), and implemented with the support of OncoDNA.

The programme, a continuation of the previous initiative MDLUX1, aims to assess the value and feasibility of implementing molecular diagnostics tests as part of cancer care in Luxembourg, with the goal of improving the effectiveness of cancer treatment whilst supporting cancer research. Such molecular diagnostic tests are currently not reimbursed by public health insurance (National Health Fund – Caisse Nationale de Santé, CNS) in Luxembourg, hence the importance of MDLUX2 as a pilot project to evaluate their benefits for patients. Hundreds of patients are expected to benefit from the programme over three years.

A set of standardised molecular diagnostic tests will be performed on tissue samples from each patient taking part in MDLUX2. Following a European public tender, OncoDNA was successfully selected as the provider of molecular diagnostic services for the programme. The combined solution of molecular testing and reporting platform will give clinicians an in-depth insight into the specific mutations that characterise a patient's tumour and will provide suggestions on potential clinical trials in which patients may decide to participate.

The remaining tissue and its associated clinical data – subject to patient's consent – will be stored at IBBL with the purpose of making them available for research studies.

*“The project seeks to guide clinicians in their choice of the most appropriate treatment to be administered to each individual patient”,* explains Dr Nikolai Goncharenko, Coordinator of INC. *“Ultimately, our goal is to improve clinical outcomes for patients, whilst strengthening Luxembourg's position with respect to molecular diagnostics, personalised medicine and cancer research”.*

Patient enrolment in the programme will take place through local hospitals, on the recommendation of clinical multidisciplinary tumour boards. A dedicated form will allow prospective participants to consent to the molecular diagnostic test and grant their permission for their biological samples to be stored at IBBL for future research purposes.

MDLUX2 is co-sponsored by Luxembourg's Fondation Cancer (EUR 45,000), Fondatioun Kriibskrank Kanner (which will cover molecular diagnostic testing for paediatric patients) and IBBL (EUR 200,000). The programme is implemented under the general coordination of INC with the support of participating hospitals.



### About INC

Institut National du Cancer (INC) was established in 2015 as a not-for-profit organisation (association sans but lucratif) in the context of Luxembourg's National Cancer Plan 2014-18. The mission of INC includes coordination of oncology care at the national level; preparation of the national treatment guidelines and design of clinical patient pathways; set-up and coordination of specialised multidisciplinary tumour boards; assessment of the quality indicators for prevention and treatment of cancer; implementation of personalised medicine approaches for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer; assembly and moderation of actors involved in the delivery of cancer care; promotion of the national centres of competence; as well as quality marking and certification of medical establishments. INC is funded by the Ministry of Health of Luxembourg. For more information, please visit [www.inc.lu](http://www.inc.lu).

### About Fondation Cancer

Fondation Cancer was founded in 1994. Many years of involvement and a proud record of achievement have earned Fondation Cancer widespread recognition as a prime leader in the fight against cancer. Fondation Cancer aims to reduce cancer mortality and morbidity rates by waging a fight on many fronts - by promoting research, prevention and early detection, improved methods of treatment and rehabilitation and quality of life. Fondation Cancer supports cancer patients and their families throughout their journey and strives to protect their rights. For more information, please visit [www.cancer.lu](http://www.cancer.lu).

### About Fondatioun Kriibskrank Kanner

For almost 30 years, the Fondatioun Kriibskrank Kanner has been accompanying children fighting cancer and rare and life-threatening diseases and their families. The foundation has three main aims:

- Help to improve the physical and psychological condition of the child and his family. Its multidisciplinary team offers an individual care taking from the diagnosis all the way to the remission, including assistance with the administrative and financial aspects, psycho-social support as well as educational, therapeutic and recreational activities.
- Raise awareness on childhood cancer and defend the children's rights.
- Support actively onco-paediatric research by funding selected projects with one main goal: increase the cure rate and survivors' quality of life.

For more information, please visit [www.fondatioun.lu](http://www.fondatioun.lu).

### About IBBL

IBBL (Integrated BioBank of Luxembourg) is an autonomous not-for-profit institute dedicated to supporting biomedical research for the benefit of patients. IBBL is an integrated research infrastructure offering bioservices, including the collection, processing, analysis and storage of biological samples and associated data. In addition, IBBL carries out research to optimise biospecimen processing and certify biospecimen quality. IBBL is ISO 9001:2015 certified and ISO 17025:2005 accredited. IBBL's quality management system is conceived to be compliant with NF S96-900:2011 and ISO 17043:2010. IBBL's mission is to provide biospecimen related services and a biobanking infrastructure for applied medical research. IBBL's vision is to be an international centre of excellence in biobanking and a valued partner in developing better healthcare solutions. IBBL is an autonomous institute, organised within the Luxembourg Institute of Health (LIH). For more information, please visit our corporate website ([www.ibbl.lu](http://www.ibbl.lu)) or our public website ([www.biobank.lu](http://www.biobank.lu)).

### About OncoDNA

OncoDNA is a private, oncology-focused healthcare technology company that combines advanced, comprehensive testing of all clinically relevant cancer biomarkers (DNA, RNA and protein profiles) from both solid and liquid biopsies with a proprietary cancer treatment knowledge database called OncoKDO™ that continuously 'learns' from cutting-edge, validated, scientific and medical advances. This one-stop-shop analysis and interpretation service gives oncologists actionable results to enable the selection of treatments tailored to an individual patient's cancer profile. OncoDNA also works in collaboration with the biopharma industry to develop and deliver the treatments of tomorrow by assisting with design, enrolment and assessment of clinical trials as well as increasing access to approved precision medicines. The company is based in Gosselies, Belgium, and employs c. 55 employees in four countries. For more information please visit [www.oncodna.com](http://www.oncodna.com)



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