



Prof. Seiamak Bahram appointed as scientific advisor to GenDx

Utrecht, Netherlands – November 3, 2020 – Genome Diagnostics B.V. (“GenDx”) announced that earlier this year they have appointed Professor Seiamak Bahram as scientific advisor to their company. Professor Bahram has an extensive knowledge of the Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC) and in particular the MHC Class I chain-related molecules A (MICA) and B (MICB). His scientific advice will provide valuable input to the company regarding relevant immunological targets and the use of diagnostic assays in a hospital setting.

About Seiamak Bahram

Seiamak Bahram is a University Professor and Hospital Practitioner in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Strasbourg and Department Head of the Central Laboratory of Immunology at the University Hospitals of Strasbourg, France. He graduated from the Strasbourg School of Medicine and did his PhD work at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute at the Harvard Medical School in Boston, USA.

His principal research interest is the genetics of the human immune system with particular emphasis on the structure and the function of the human MHC, also known as HLA (Human Leukocyte Antigen). He is particularly interested in the genetics of the MHC in the context of organ grafts and autoimmune/autoinflammatory disorders. He is leading a French Laboratory of Excellence (LabEx) in genetics, genomics and immunology of human transplantation (TRANSPLANTEX) and an INSERM unit aimed at deciphering the genomics and immunology of autoimmune and autoinflammatory disorders.

About HLA

The HLA system consists of a large family of highly variable genes and allelic variants which form the basis of the human immunological defense system. In stem cell transplantation, matching patient and donor is vital as small differences between HLA alleles may have serious effects on the outcome of transplantation. HLA typing is a technique that enables determination of specific nucleotide sequences, making it ideal for stem cell transplantation purposes. GenDx offers the NGSgo® reagent line and the NGSengine® software package for NGS-based HLA typing.

About MICA and MICB

MICA and MICB genes are located within the MHC region on the short arm of chromosome six, in close proximity to HLA-B. MICA has been studied more widely than MICB, therefore more is known about MICA genetics and biology. Most tissues have low levels of MICA expression, while higher expression level are found on endothelial cells, dendritic cells, fibroblasts, epithelial cells, and many tumors. MICA molecules interact with the NKG2D receptor present on NK cells and certain T lymphocytes, thereby enabling immune cells to attack infected or “stressed” cells without the need of antigen recognition. This makes the MICA/NKG2D interaction a distinct vector for the activation of the immune system. Most remarkably, while NKG2D is monomorphic, both MICA and MICB molecules are unusually polymorphic. This receptor-ligand interaction also influences immunological responses following transplantation. Recent studies have indeed established to what extent MICA and MICB matching is beneficial for transplantation purposes. Several research



groups are actively studying this avenue. GenDx offers genotyping solutions for the MICA and MICB genes in order to facilitate research in this field.

About GenDx

Genome Diagnostics B.V., also known as GenDx, is a Dutch company, founded in 2005, specialized in molecular diagnostics, focused on development, production and sales of innovative assays and analysis software for transplantation and companion diagnostics. GenDx also has a USA-based office near O'Hare airport, Chicago, IL.

GenDx specializes in HLA sequencing-based typing strategies and offers reagents and software for both Sanger and NGS approaches. In 2013, GenDx started developing products for chimerism monitoring by qPCR. Applying its extensive in-house expertise, GenDx also offers custom laboratory services for basic and clinical research organizations.

GenDx Education organizes dedicated HLA SBT and chimerism monitoring training courses worldwide on a regular basis for anyone working in tissue typing or research laboratories, blood banks, and donor registries.

GenDx is based at the Utrecht Science Park, the Netherlands and was founded in 2005 by Erik Rozemuller PhD, Wietse Mulder PhD and UMC Utrecht Holdings B.V. represented by Oscar Schoots PhD and Raoul Linschoten LLM. In 2019, Ampersand Capital Partners completed a minority growth equity investment in the company and David Parker joined the GenDx Board of directors along with Ampersand Operating Partner Mike Evans PhD. For further information about GenDx go to www.GenDx.com.

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