



Press Release

Epify signs agreement with Maastricht University to validate colorectal cancer biomarkers for early detection

Maastricht, The Netherlands, March 30, 2021 - Epify BV, an integrated biotechnology company that develops epigenetic biomarker-based diagnostic applications to help clinicians improve the early diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients, today announced the signing of a research agreement with Maastricht University.

Under the agreement, the epigenetics program at Maastricht University's Cancer Pathology Laboratory, led by Prof. dr. Manon van Engeland, will work with Epify to assess the performance of a set of several dozens of epigenetic biomarkers linked to colorectal cancer and adenomas, associated pre-malignant lesions, discovered in stool samples. By detecting cancer at its earliest stages or in patients with high-risk precancerous cells, clinicians can identify patients requiring treatment more efficiently. Patients that receive their diagnosis at an early stage generally have very favorable outcomes, and undergo much less burdensome treatment than compared to stage cancer patients. The collaboration also intends to develop a first clinical performance assay based on a subset of validated biomarkers.

Prof. dr. Manon van Engeland said: "As a translational scientist, I am driven to discover clinically valuable epigenetic biomarkers. As I have learned throughout the years, implementation into clinical practice requires a close interaction with industry. The collaboration with Epify will advance the translation of validated epigenetic biomarker panels into a potentially valuable diagnostic tool that could benefit colorectal cancer patients."

Leander Van Neste, Epify's CSO, continued: "There is a significant opportunity to establish the clinical utility of novel epigenetic biomarkers for colorectal cancer, which could fill the gaps left by existing assays. The collaboration with Maastricht University, which has a proven track record in epigenetic biomarker discovery, especially for colorectal cancer, will help us accelerate the validation of these biomarkers and development of a new diagnostic assay for early detection."

"In 2021, Epify will focus on advancing the clinical validation of its epigenetic biomarkers for colorectal cancer in collaboration with the Maastricht University, its lead assay development program. We will also further expand our pipeline to develop potential epigenetic assays in lung, breast, and cervical cancers," added Joris Schuurmans, Epify's CEO.

About Epify

Epify develops assays based on epigenetic biomarkers. These biomarkers, which represent modifications to DNA, control gene activity and are implicated in a wide range of cancers, driving and influencing the course of the disease. Using these biomarkers, Epify aims to improve screening, early detection, diagnostic accuracy, and overall patient management, thereby facilitating a more personalized cancer care.

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