

Press Release

Eurofins Genomics part of groundbreaking ovarian cancer research

Ebersberg, Germany, 16th October 2019

Eurofins Genomics helps uncover a groundbreaking link between ovarian cancer and the microbiome. As part of one of the first reports of its kind, Eurofins Genomics was a research partner in a project funded by EU Horizon 2020 and Eve Appeal. The results of the research showed that in women at risk of developing ovarian cancer, or those who may already have ovarian cancer, had a significantly decreased amount of “good” lactobacilli bacteria present in their microbiome. These results could have a significant impact on how ovarian cancer risk may be reduced in the future.

The human body is host to large numbers of microbial communities, all of which are thought to have an impact on our normal physiological functions. It has long been speculated that this microbiota could be a target for cancer prevention and/or treatment. This formed the basis for this particular research.

In this study, a consortium of several clinicians submitted cervicovaginal swab samples from a large group of women from Germany, the UK, Czech Republic and Norway. These samples were then sent to Eurofins Genomics Europe where DNA was extracted and microbiome analysis was performed. This kind of analysis, done using a Next Generation Sequencing service called INVIEW Microbiome, generally allows researchers to identify the microbial community in a variety of environmental, food or clinical samples.

There were two main groups as part of the results. It was found that the women who already had ovarian cancer, or were at a higher risk of developing it, had significantly lower levels of lactobacilli species (the “healthy” bacteria) than those who were healthy or with benign gynaecological conditions. The next step now in the overall research is to establish whether sustaining a constant healthy bacterial community could reduce the risk of developing ovarian cancer.

Dr. Tobias Paprotka, Head of R&D at Eurofins Genomics Europe, and co-author of the research paper comments: “Eurofins Genomics is always proud to participate in such groundbreaking research as part of its dedication to use the latest innovative technologies in the market, and hence of its “Testing for Life” mission.”

To read the full research paper published in the Lancet, please follow this link:

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045\(19\)30340-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045(19)30340-7/fulltext)

Visit the product page of Eurofins Genomics' service INVIEW Microbiome to learn more about the applied technology:

<https://www.eurofinsgenomics.eu/en/next-generation-sequencing/ngs-built-for-you/inview-microbiome/>

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Notes to Editors:

About Eurofins Genomics

Eurofins Genomics, a member of the Eurofins Group with facilities in Europe, the United States and Asia, is an internationally leading provider of DNA sequencing services, next generation sequencing services, genotyping services, DNA synthesis products and bioinformatics services for pharma, diagnostics, food, agriculture, biotechnological and research markets. The company's strength is its extensive customer base and high quality services in industrial scale for the life science industries and academic research institutions around the world. For further information, please visit our website at eurofinsgenomics.com.

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