BioSpectrum
the business of Bio & Health Sciences
ASIA EDITION

L'Oreal opens research center at A*Star's IMB

December 19, 2012 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau



Singapore:Ã?Â The L'OrÃ?Æ?Ã?Â©al Group has opened an Advanced Research Centre in A*STAR's Institute of Medical Biology (IMB) to plug into the world-class research environment in Biopolis and Singapore. This is part of L'OrÃ?Æ?Ã?Â©al's strategy to foster relations with local centers of scientific excellence and internationalize its research to be closer to consumers in support of its strategy to gain one billion new consumers over the next 10 to 15 years.

IMB's expertise in skin biology research, together with the ethnically diverse population in Singapore, complements L'OrÃ?Æ?Ã?Â©al's interest in understanding human skin diversity. This sparked off IMB's first partnership with L'OrÃ?Æ?Ã?Â©al in 2010, which aimed to reconstruct Asian skin from cultured cells. After encouraging results from this project, L'OrÃ?Æ?Ã?Â©al Research & Innovation (R&I) decided to open an Advanced Research Centre in Biopolis, which currently houses eight scientists. They are now expanding their collaborations with IMB, BMRC's Skin Biology Cluster Platform and beyond to the biomedical research community in Biopolis and Singapore.

"We are more than happy with the results we are getting with IMB and thanks to the local scientific and technological expertise in Singapore, we have extended our range and network of collaborations and widened the new center's field of research to "Skin biology", said Ms StÃ?Æ?Ã?Â©phane Ortiz, head of L'OrÃ?Æ?Ã?Â©al's Asia R&I. "There are talented young scientists in Singapore, professors from around the world and a variety of laboratories, research institutions, start-ups, universities of all sizes and disciplines. These are ideal situations for converting scientific concepts into prototypes for products or evaluation methods. Without doubt, Singapore offers an outstanding environment for piloting science-driven innovation."

"We are very excited about the L'OrÃ?Æ?Ã?Â©al research center in IMB as L'OrÃ?Æ?Ã?Â©al is a global brand that is committed to advancing skin science for the benefit of skin care. This will allow us to tap on each other's strengths, to better understand Asian skin, which will bring many applications, from personal care to healthcare solutions. We welcome L'OrÃ?Æ?Ã?Â©al into the lively scientific community at Biopolis. They join a growing number of companies bringing their research into Biopolis, and will strengthen the healthy cluster of public-private open research partnerships that is developing here," saidÃ?Â Prof Birgitte Lane, executive director of IMB.