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Singapore unveils first public-private partnership center for speciality molecular testing

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The unique partnership draws public and private sectors' expertise and resources closer than ever, fostering innovation in specialty molecular testing



(Left to Right) A/Prof Too Heng-Phon (Chairman, Mirxes), Dr Zhou Lihan (Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, MiRXES), Prof Chng Wee Joo (Group Director, Research Office, NUHS), Prof Yeoh Khay Guan (Chief Executive, NUHS), DPM Heng Swee Keat, Prof Aymeric Lim (Chief Executive Officer, NUH), A/Prof Tan Soo Yong (Group Chief, Pathology, NUHS) and Prof Tan Chorh Chuan, Permanent Secretary (National Research Development), NRF

Singapore's National University Hospital (NUH) and leading RNA technology company, Mirxes have officialy unveiled the NUH DMOC@Biopolis, one of Singapore's first publicprivate partnership centres for specialty molecular testing.

The NUH DMOC@Biopolis is an extension of NUH's Diagnostic Molecular Oncology Centre (DMOC) that co-locates and integrates with Mirxes' clinical laboratory, M Diagnostics at Biopolis. This unique and timely partnership also brings together expertise and resources from both public and private sectors, fostering knowledge sharing and innovation in specialty molecular testing.

The Centre was inaugurated by Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies, and Chairman of the National Research Foundation (NRF), Mr Heng Swee Keat.

The NUH DMOC@Biopolis holds a unique distinction: two clinical laboratories accredited with their respective HCSA (Healthcare Services Act) licenses at a single site. It marks the integration of NUH’s extensive clinical expertise with Mirxes’ cutting-edge molecular testing infrastructure, catalysing the development and adoption of medical innovations in clinical settings.

Unlocking new possibilities for precision medicine

The NUH DMOC@Biopolis offers the APEX (Actionable, Personalized, EXpress) cancer treatment selection test, a cutting-edge 50-gene targeted Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) panel (refer to Annex A for more details). This test identifies

genetic alterations in tumours that may respond favourably to specific targeted therapies, helping to predict patients' response to certain treatments and potentially improving patient outcomes. This has unlocked new possibilities for individualised and precision medicine to become a reality for cancer patients.

Developed and validated by DMOC and M Diagnostics, APEX offers significant advantages such as affordable advanced genomics theraputics, accelerated diagnostic results, and improved patient access.