

**Next Gen Diagnostics Announces that MIT Associate Professor and Broad Institute Core Faculty member Paul Blainey has Joined its Scientific Advisory Board**

**CAMBRIDGE, UK and CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, March 26, 2019** – Next Gen Diagnostics (NGD) is pleased to announce that Broad Institute core faculty member and MIT Biological Engineering Associate Professor Dr. Paul Blainey has joined its Scientific Advisory Board. Dr. Blainey, a world expert in microfluidic technology and its application to genomics, will advise NGD across several areas of company technology including the automation of next gen sequencing sample preparation methods.

“It is very timely for Paul to join NGD’s Scientific Advisory Board as we explore and develop means to automate NGS sample preparation to bring sequence-based diagnostic services to our hospital customers,” said Paul A. Rhodes, Ph.D., CEO of NGD. “By combining automated robotic or microfluidic sample prep with the automation of pathogen bioinformatics we have achieved, we bring unprecedentedly low cost and high-volume pathogen sequencing-based services, including transmission detection and outbreak prevention, to hospitals. Paul’s joining our SAB brings world-class sample preparation talent to the Company, and we now are joined by internationally-recognized leaders in genomics technology with experience at both the Sanger and Broad Institutes.”

“NGD has recognized that automating both sample preparation and bioinformatic analysis addressed the two key challenges in bringing pathogen sequencing to clinical diagnostics,” said Dr. Blainey. “NGD has automated the bioinformatics, and I look forward to working with them as they now bring automated sample preparation to their hospital service. With these innovations in automation, NGD’s transmission detection and diagnostic capabilities could together transform clinical microbiology and infection control, and enable low cost WGS-based clinical diagnostics.”

**About the Next Gen Diagnostics WGS System**

Next Gen Diagnostics has developed and deployed a fully automated pathogen bioinformatics analysis pipeline, now in active use to enable prospective sequencing to detect transmission and curtail outbreak at Addenbrooke’s Hospital in Cambridge, UK. Each morning, an interactive information system, the NGD Dashboard, highlights transmission events detected from sequencing done the night before. This tool enables and supports the evidence-based action of infection control teams who intervene to bring the outbreak to a rapid close. In addition, the NGD Dashboard predicts antibiogram, compares that prediction with phenotype, and enumerate the sample’s full resistome profile including all genes and mutations known to be associated with resistance. Quality control is embedded throughout the system. Information visibility can be tiered by user ID, so infection control teams are presented with interpreted and actionable results while interested researchers can have access to layers of visualization suitable for expert review.

**About Next Gen Diagnostics**

Headquartered in Mountain View California and with a team based at the world-renowned Wellcome Sanger Institute outside Cambridge, UK, Next Gen Diagnostics (NGD) has developed the world’s most complete automation of pathogen WGS bioinformatics and has combined that with a highly automated robotic sample preparation service to offer hospitals a unique turn-key capability: on site, 24 hour WGS results to enable transmission detection and outbreak prevention. Now deployed, validated and in clinical use, this system has already proven to detect transmission, and in partnership with hospital infection control teams, to prevent outbreaks.

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