

NEXT GEN DIAGNOSTICS ANNOUNCES THAT DR. TONY COX, DIRECTOR OF ADVANCED SEQUENCING PIPELINE RESEARCH AT THE WELLCOME SANGER INSTITUTE, HAS JOINED ITS SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

CAMBRIDGE UK and MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA, July 11, 2018 – Next Gen Diagnostics is pleased to announce that Dr. Tony Cox, Head of DNA Pipelines Development at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, has joined its Scientific Advisory Board. Dr. Cox is Group Leader of both DNA Pipeline Informatics as well as DNA Pipelines Research and Development, and as such has very broad experience, at industrial scale, with the very highest quality and highest volume sample preparation, sequencing, bioinformatics pipeline in the world. During the 20 years Tony has been at the Institute, the Sanger has sequenced over 30% of all the pathogen sequence uploaded to GenBank, establishing the Institute as the world’s foremost center for pathogen genomics. Having overseen much of the pipeline development that has enabled this contribution to science, Tony’s unparalleled depth of experience in optimizing highly automated sample preparation, sequencing, and bioinformatics makes him an ideal advisor as NGD moves to bring these world-leading practices to the hospital clinic to transform infection control.

“I could not be more delighted to welcome Tony to the NGD Scientific Advisory Board,” said Paul A. Rhodes, Ph.D., Next Gen’s CEO. “There is no-one with more experience in the practical requirements of developing a highly automated sample preparation, sequencing and bioinformatics pipeline the scale and quality we need. NGD is bringing a new paradigm to hospital infection control, which will transform detection of transmission and prevention of outbreak, and soon will transform microbiology diagnostics itself. I am sure that Tony will make critical and timely contributions to assure that our pipelines are the most efficient possible, and therefore of the lowest cost possible, while maintaining gold standard quality.”

“I am delighted to join a number of long-time colleagues in partnering with NGD to bring the technologies we have developed to hospital clinics, and thus to the benefit of patients,” said Dr. Cox. “Many of us who have devoted a career to developing and optimizing methods for post-hoc large scale pathogen genomic research have long-wanted to bring this capability to the hospitals that can use it nearly real-time to take care of patients, to prevent transmission of infection, and to better-diagnose disease. I believe Next Gen Diagnostics is fulfilling this goal, and I am glad to participate in helping to ensure that the service they offer is at the highest possible level of efficiency in time and cost, while maintaining the highest level of quality and reliability.”

About the Next Gen Diagnostics WGS System

Next Gen Diagnostics has developed and deployed a fully automated pathogen bioinformatics analysis pipeline, based on the bioinformatics pipeline and expertise of the Sanger Institute. An interactive information system, the NGD Dashboard, is furnished, each morning highlighting the new transmission chains detected (if any) the night before along with new cases added to already-identified outbreak. Tools enable and support the action of infection control teams and other stakeholders in validating and intervening to stop outbreak. In addition, the NGD Dashboard includes modules that predict antibiogram, compare 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 (patient status within each transmission chain) while senior leadership 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 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 and sequencing 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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