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Ministers and pioneer scientists open Luxembourg's international biobank to accelerate clinical research and advance future healthcare

The Integrated BioBank of Luxembourg (IBBL) opened its facilities today, with a Grand Opening Ceremony led by Luxembourg's leading academic institutions, Government Ministers and pioneer scientists from IBBL's international collaborative partnerships. Today's official opening marks the beginning of Luxembourg's bid to become a centre of excellence for biomedical research, serving Luxembourg's economy and healthcare system.

The IBBL is an important step to realizing Luxembourg's potential as a centre of excellence in biomedical research. Not only will this level of infrastructure contribute to diversifying the economy, attracting investment and generating new jobs, but it will help sustain an efficient, world-leading healthcare system for all Luxembourg citizens.

The IBBL was founded by Luxembourg's leading public research and academic centres, in partnership with the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen), USA, to accelerate medical research in personalised medicine with a focus on developing new diagnostic biomarkers. Personalised medicine involves a more accurate understanding of disease based on each individual to enable more efficient, tailored treatment, screening and prevention, to save lives, whilst limiting prohibitive healthcare costs. Progress is already underway with the Luxembourg Lung Cancer Project, in collaboration with the Partnership for Personalized Medicine and CRP-Santé, to identify new diagnostic tests for improving earlier detection and treatment of lung cancer and help treat the 200 new cases in Luxembourg every year.

In addition, the IBBL is partnering with the Institute for Systems Biology, US, and the Luxembourg Center for Systems Biomedicine, to deepen our understanding of how genes interact with proteins and a person's environment to cause disease. A DNA sequencer and new bioinformatic and genomic technologies, housed at the IBBL, will enable researchers to mine large-scale genetic data to develop new diagnostic biomarkers and identify protein fingerprints. The potential application for this level of technology could mean more accurate, less invasive diagnoses via a simple blood test to monitor the health of major organs and monitor side-effects of new drugs.

'The IBBL's official opening and the level of scientific collaboration here today demonstrate our commitment to facilitating cutting-edge medical research for the next generation in healthcare. These are exciting times in medical research but if we are to discover new cures and ways to improve public health, it is necessary to integrate advanced molecular analyses with cutting-edge technology and scientific expertise to accelerate clinical discoveries,' said Dr Jean-Claude Schmit, President of the IBBL.

Patrizia Luchetta, IBBL Vice-Chairman added, 'The IBBL is engaged with world-class research projects to improve patient care for citizens in Luxembourg and around the world. However, a key component to our success is the support and involvement of patients, healthy volunteers and local hospitals so we thank everyone for taking part.' For more information, please visit <http://www.ibbl.lu/>

INTEGRATED **BIOBANK**
OF LUXEMBOURG
For Next Generation Healthcare

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About the IBBL

The IBBL is an independent, not-for-profit biobank, which aspires to become a state-of-the art hub in Europe. Progressing beyond the traditional biobank, the IBBL will contribute to setting new standards in quality sample collection and biospecimen research, alongside cutting-edge technology, including a DNA sequencer necessary for accelerating genetic research. Importantly, the IBBL will provide well-defined biospecimen material, including DNA, RNA and protein biosamples tailored to the needs of an individual clinical study. The IBBL's mission is to ethically and appropriately collect, store, analyse, and distribute biospecimens while ensuring the strictest confidentiality and protection of donors' data.

The IBBL was founded by public research centres: CRP-Santé, CRP-Henri Tudor, CRP-Gabriel Lippmann and the University of Luxembourg and developed in partnership with the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen), Arizona, USA

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