



Specific Technologies Opens an Office at the New Biodata Innovation Centre on the Wellcome Genome Campus, Cambridge, UK

HINXTON, UK and MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA, September 1, 2016 -- Specific Technologies, which has developed and is now commercializing a new diagnostic paradigm combining detection with identification of microorganisms during culture, has opened an office in the newly built Biodata Innovation Centre on the Wellcome Genome Campus, home of the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Cambridge, UK. The Sanger is a world center for the application of genomics, pioneering the advances that enable the use of whole genome sequencing (WGS) to address the challenge of infectious disease, particularly that posed by the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Specific's technology not only performs detection and furnishes species-level ID, but provides a strain-level profile during culture, a complementary means to track strains of concern at the primary culture stage. "We saw Specific's technology and mission as complementary to much of the bacterial infection epidemiology work going on across the Campus, and so are delighted to confirm that Specific is the first private company (outside of our internal spin-offs) that has been invited to occupy our newest building," said Dr. Adrian Ibrahim, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute Head of Technology Transfer and Business Development. "We have high expectations for the synergy that has already emerged between Specific and some of our leading researchers, and believe there are long term opportunities that will benefit all parties involved."

"Having just spent 10 days at the Campus I could not be more certain that our presence there will spur important work and partnerships in developing and applying our strain-level profiles during culture in tandem with the information furnished by whole-genome sequencing. Research leaders at Sanger are pioneering the movement towards the routine use of WGS for clinical samples of concern, and in coming years for routine clinical care. We aim to partner with these initiatives," said Dr. Paul Rhodes, Chief Executive Officer of Specific Technologies. "Our metabolomic fingerprint is so inexpensive that it is obtained for *all* blood culture samples in a given facility, and so is uniquely suited to identify strains of concern early in the clinical workflow, enabling and guiding a rapid hand-off to WGS. The partnerships we build at Sanger could transform the capability to detect, characterize and track recurring or resistant strains in hospital blood infection populations, and so will help address the challenges posed by drug-resistant strains that are now an urgent world-wide concern."

About the SpecID System

During growth in culture, bacteria produce small molecule volatile metabolites unique to their species and strain. Utilizing a chemical fingerprint that combines detection and identification into a simple, automated single step utilizing a low-cost disposable printed sensory array, the novel SpecID system identifies microorganism species and strain from the metabolomic signature of volatiles produced during growth.

About Specific Technologies

Specific Technologies has developed *in vitro* diagnostic systems for rapid identification of cells, and in its firms commercial application is applying this fundamental new platform to the detection and



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characterization of microorganisms causing blood infection. The company's unique, patented metabolomic signature technology leverages a low-cost printed sensor to identify cell type down to the strain level. Specific Technologies is based in Mountain View, CA.

For additional information, please visit www.specifictechnologies.net.

For press inquiries, please contact:
press@specifictechnologies.net