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InvitroCue and Genome Institute of Singapore establish joint innovation laboratory for the development of in vitro cancer models

July 20, 2017 – Invitrocue (ASX:IVQ), a leading healthcare bio-analytic solutions provider, is pleased to announce that it has established a joint innovation laboratory with A*STAR's Genome Institute of Singapore (GIS) to develop patient-derived cancer organoids to better guide clinical decision in cancer management.

Called the GIS-IVQ Joint Laboratory, the joint lab aims to boost expertise and develop tumour models to enhance decision-making for clinicians, and enable them to personalise treatment to help patients manage the disease and prolong survival.

The laboratory will focus on the development and integration of Invitrocue's Onco-PDO™ platform for four oncology indications which include head and neck cancer, colorectal cancer, liver cancer and triple negative breast cancer.

The Genome Institute of Singapore (GIS) is a national, government supported initiative which seeks to use genomic sciences to achieve significant improvements in human health. As one of the world's leading centers for genomic discovery, the GIS pursues the integration of technology, genetics and biology towards the goal of individualized medicine.

Located at the Genome building in Biopolis, Singapore's main biomedical research center, the joint laboratory will be the first of its kind in Asia Pacific, where there will be integration of phenotypic and genomic data with patient response performed prospectively.

The joint laboratory will leverage GIS' expertise in genomics, oncology and organoid biology, and Invitrocue's capabilities in developing cell-based products and services for commercialisation. Over time the laboratory will employ up to 20 personnel in various scientific and technical roles. Invitrocue has also partnered with groups in Australia, such as the Garvan Institute of Medical Research to scale its efforts.

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New technologies and assays will be developed in the joint laboratory for:

- Real time guidance of treatment in a clinical setting;
- Biobanked patient derived tumor models for pharmaceutical drug discovery and immuno-oncology applications; and,
- Identification of novel biomarkers of drug resistance and response using machine learning and artificial intelligence.

Commenting on the joint laboratory, Dr. Steven Fang, Executive Director and Founder of Invitrocue, said, “The IVQ-GIS Joint Laboratory is another significant milestone for Invitrocue, and a happy reunion story since the company was spun-off from A*STAR five years ago in 2012. Our innovative approach in using bioanalytics for healthcare has been validated by leading pharmaceutical companies. The new lab will bring our work another step closer to commercialisation for technologies that essentially take the guesswork out of cancer treatment and improve the quality of life for the patient.”

Prof Ng Huck Hui, Executive Director of GIS added, “We are delighted to partner Invitrocue; this collaboration will help to advance our research in precision medicine and most importantly, contribute to better patient outcomes through the development of new treatments.”

The GIS-IVQ Joint Laboratory will be officially launched on July 24 as part of the University of Adelaide's Third Australia-Singapore Relationship Conference, to be held in Singapore. The event will be graced by the Hon. Martin Hamilton-Smith MP, Minister for Investment and Trade, Government of South Australia.

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About Invitrocue

Invitrocue is a leading healthcare bio-analytic solutions provider including *in vitro* cell-based testing technologies and image analytics software for use in digital pathology. Invitrocue has developed a unique 3D cell-based scaffolding technology that mimics human organ samples for using in the field of infectious diseases. In 2016, the company expanded its work in liver disease to the field of oncology. The technology enables patient-derived cancer cells (organoids) to be cultured in laboratories for testing against a panel of drugs to support clinical decision making for individual patients (personalised medicine).

Invitrocue's technology originated in Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). Invitrocue has been developed and validated in partnerships with leading biopharmaceutical companies and scientific collaborators.

Invitrocue currently operates in Singapore and China and is listed on Australian Securities Exchange under the ticker IVQ. Website: www.invitrocue.com

About Onco-PDO

Onco-PDO™, which stands for oncology patient-derived organoid, enables Invitrocue to grow patient-derived tumour cells (an organoid) in its laboratories initially for biopharmaceutical companies, medical researchers and academic institutions to understand the impact of cancer treatments prior to conducting time consuming and expensive clinical trials. Subsequently, Onco-PDO™ may also create a new market for personalised drug testing using FDA approved drugs to improve individual treatment outcomes in selected solid tumours.