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ASIA EDITION

AUM partners with NCCS to develop new cancer drugs

October 10, 2018 | News

The collaboration will employ precision and digital medicine techniques that can develop cancer drugs in a shorter time frame.



Singapore – The National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) and AUM Biosciences, a Singapore headquartered biotechnology company, will be collaborating on conducting joint research to develop new potential treatments to battle cancer.

By sharing their expertise and resources, the team believes that their efforts will shorten the time that it would normally take to test and develop new drugs, as well as to introduce safe and effective drug combinations.

The collaboration will combine NCCS' highly-regarded PDX laboratory model capabilities and knowledge on drug discovery, with AUM Bioscience's expertise in clinical drug development.

PDX, which stands for Patient Derived Xenograft, is the grafting of patients' tumours onto mice, thereby creating valuable human cancer or PDX models. Different drugs can be tested in these PDX models to evaluate their ability to inhibit tumour growth. Success in these models helps in selecting the suitable drug candidates to put forward for testing in actual patients. It can also help guide the drug development process, including developing a better understanding of how cancers respond to treatment.

Professor Huynh The Hung, Principal Investigator of the Laboratory of Molecular Endocrinology at NCCS' Division of Cellular & Molecular Research, has extensive experience in using xenografts to identify new therapies for various cancers. His laboratory has one of the largest collections of Asian-specific PDX models in Asia. The PDX models have been extensively used to evaluate novel drugs and develop novel combination therapies for various cancers such as liver, gastric and ovarian cancers.

In explaining the collaboration, Professor Huynh said, "We believe that AUM Biosciences is a good fit for us to work together. The size of their operations will give us the added advantage of getting things done at a faster pace with fewer red tapes, compared with the big drug companies."