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Bayer, OrigiMed to develop novel cancer therapy

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The collaboration will begin with the development of a CDx-IVD for larotrectinib for the Chinese market



Bayer and OrigiMed (Shanghai) Co., Ltd. have announced a strategic collaboration for the development and commercialization of NGS-based companion diagnostics – in vitro diagnostic (CDx-IVD) in China for detection of NTRK gene fusions.

This collaboration will focus on developing a CDx-IVD for larotrectinib (Vitrakvi®) for the Chinese market, the first TRK inhibitor approved in US (2018) and Europe (2019) for adult and pediatrics with TRK fusion cancer and is currently developed globally, including in China.

"Approved in various markets already, including the US and EU, larotrectinib is a first-of-its-kind treatment exclusively designed for adults and children with TRK fusion cancer. It is also the first compound that received its initial approval based on the molecular alteration (NTRK gene fusion) driving their cancer irrespective of the tumor site of origin," said Dr. Emmanuelle di Tomaso, Head of Oncology Precision Medicine, Bayer's Oncology Strategic Business Unit "Cancer care is currently undergoing a paradigm shift, and as this new era of precision oncology treatment unfolds, we are continuing our effort of delivering innovative medicines such as larotrectinib, which can provide value to patients and their treating physicians around the world."

"As one of the first NGS companies to introduce NTRK gene fusion detection in China, we are looking forward to working with Bayer to jointly develop larotrectinib CDx-IVD, jointly support clinical trials of larotrectinib in mainland China and provide therapeutic benefits for more patients." The genomic testing and analysis of cancer patients to determine whether they are suitable for the treatment of larotrectinib is also a very urgent clinical need," said Dr. Wang Kai, CEO of OrigiMed.