

Sienna and Minomic Enter Collaboration Agreement to Develop Pancreatic Cancer Test

- Pancreatic cancer is the most lethal cancer in humans, with a 5-year survival rate of less than 10%.
- There are no liquid biopsy assays for the early detection of pancreatic cancer.
- There is independent evidence that the protein GPC-1 on exosomes is strongly elevated in the blood from pancreatic cancer patients.
- Sienna will utilise its proprietary EXO-NET™ exosome capture technology to isolate exosomes, and Minomic will use its proprietary anti-GPC-1 antibody in a pilot study to test the feasibility of developing a proprietary pancreatic cancer assay.

Melbourne, Australia, 30 October 2019: [Sienna Cancer Diagnostics Ltd \(ASX: SDX\)](#) (“Sienna” or “the Company”), a medical technology company developing and commercialising innovative cancer-related tests, has entered into a research collaboration agreement with Sydney-based Minomic International Ltd, to develop a proprietary test for the early detection of pancreatic cancer.

This will be the first application of Sienna’s capture technology that was acquired in April 2019. The general capture technology is trademarked as SIEN-NET™ and the specific exosome capture technology as EXO-NET™. Sienna will provide EXO-NET beads which rapidly and specifically capture exosomes (nanoparticles shed from cells into the bloodstream) from blood and other body fluids.

Several independent studies have indicated that exosomes from pancreatic cancer patients contain a protein called glypican-1 (GPC-1). Minomic holds a strong intellectual property position around GPC-1 with four families of patents already completing Patent Cooperation Treaty applications. Based on the data, the companies have agreed to enter into a collaboration to conduct research to determine the feasibility of producing an assay for the accurate screening, diagnosis and prognosis of pancreatic cancer.

About pancreatic cancer

Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) is the most lethal cancer in humans, with a five-year survival rate of less than 10%. Cancer Australia estimates that 3,599 new cases of pancreatic cancer will be diagnosed in Australia in 2019¹. Notably, due to the asymptomatic nature of early-stage pancreatic cancer and the lack of a non-invasive early-stage diagnostic assay, approximately 80–85% of cases at initial diagnosis present with unresectable advanced or metastatic disease. The median survival time for these patients is only 3–14 months².

¹ <https://pancreatic-cancer.canceraustralia.gov.au/statistics>

² Lu H, Niu F, Liu F, Gao J, Sun Y, Zhao X. Elevated glypican-1 expression is associated with an unfavorable prognosis in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. *Cancer Med* 2017; 6(6):1181–1191
doi: 10.1002/cam4.1064

A biomarker assay that can specifically detect asymptomatic premalignant or early malignant tumours and predict the response to treatment would greatly benefit these patients³. Sienna and Minomic aim to deliver such an assay through this collaboration.

“We are pleased to have entered into this collaboration with Minomic, and we are very hopeful that it will result in the development of a novel and reliable assay for the detection of pancreatic cancer to add to the company’s pipeline of cancer diagnostic tests. It is a perfect first application for our proprietary biomarker capture technology, SIEN-NET™”, said Sienna’s Chief Executive Officer, Carl Stubbings.

“Minomic International Ltd is excited to work with Sienna to develop this opportunity to extend the use of our GPC-1 antibody beyond prostate cancer detection”, said Minomic’s Chief Executive Officer Dr Brad Walsh.

The companies will share the costs of the proof of concept stage of the development.

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About Sienna Cancer Diagnostics

Sienna Cancer Diagnostics Ltd is an Australian medical technology company with operations in the United States, Europe, Asia, Latin America and Australia. Sienna’s strengths lie in the identification, development and commercialisation of novel IVD technologies that satisfy an unmet clinical / market need. The Company has taken its first product, an IVD test for the biomarker hTERT, from research, through development, manufacturing, product registration, and market launch through a growing network of distribution partners.

The Company is focused on growing revenues from the existing product, increasing market access through new distribution partners, extending the applications for their hTERT test, and expanding their product offerings with the addition of new technologies into the product development pipeline.

Sienna’s most recent technology acquisition was a unique technology for the capture and isolation of target analytes in liquid biopsy samples. The sample preparation technology, known as SIEN-NET™, can more accurately and rapidly prepare samples for the liquid biopsy testing of a range of clinically useful biomarkers including exosomes, lipids, proteins, and other molecular targets of interest.

³ Qi Z-H, Xu H-X, Zhang S-R, Xu J-Z, Li S, Gao H-L, Jin W, Wang W-Q, Wu C-T, Ni Q-X, Yu X-J, Liu L. The significance of liquid biopsy in pancreatic cancer. *J Cancer* 2018; 9(18): 3417-3426. doi: 10.7150/jca.24591

About Minomic International Ltd

Minomic International Ltd is an Australian diagnostic company specialising in development of diagnostics for solid tumors, including prostate, bladder and pancreas. Minomic has developed the in vitro diagnostic MiCheck® test for the early detection of prostate cancer. Minomic is launching the MiCheck® test in the US, to assist clinicians in determining the risk of men having aggressive prostate cancer. Minomic is interested in partnerships or collaborations with larger pharmaceutical/diagnostic global partners able to produce, register and distribute the MiCheck® test and collaborate in commercialisation of future diagnostic applications of the MiCheck® technology.

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