KODE BIOTECH MEDIA RELEASE

KODE TECHNOLOGY SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) ANTIBODY DIAGNOSTIC

The AUT Centre for Kode Technology Innovation, Kode Biotech Ltd, and our collaborating R&D partners are pleased to announce the acceptance of our article "COVID-19 antibody screening with SARS-CoV-2 red cell kodecytes using routine serologic diagnostic platforms" by the prestigious international journal Transfusion.

This article describes the application of the Kode Technology (www.kodecyte.com) for the screening of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) antibodies and was funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment COVID-19 Innovation Acceleration Fund and the Intramural Research Program of the NIH Clinical Center.

In this AUT research study, we developed a "kodecyte" assay designed for mass sample screening for COVID-19 antibodies, using existing transfusion laboratory infrastructure, and at a fraction of the cost of other assays. As little as 1/1000th of a gram (1 mg) of Kode material can be used to prepare enough diagnostic reagent for more than 100,000 tests, making it particularly applicable for mass population screening, and at very low cost. The COVID-19 antibody screening assay was developed by modifying red blood cells with Kode Technology to have synthetic SARS-CoV-2 antigens on their surface membrane. These "kodecytes" can then be used in diagnostic platforms used in most clinical laboratories worldwide, and are particularly suitable for use in developing economies. The assay reported shows the kodecyte assay has sensitivity and specificity at least as good as existing commercial assays.

We are also pleased to advise that for at least five years, the licensor (Kode Biotech Limited) pledges not to enforce its intellectual property rights against users of Kode™ Constructs in SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic platforms, subject to the constructs used being sourced from an authorised Kode construct supplier.

Users of the technology will be required to undertake their own product development (based on the information reported in the journal article), validation testing and obtain regulatory approval for their products. Alternatively, product will soon be available from Immulab Pty Ltd, Melbourne, Australia (immulab.com.au).

The first prototype version of the assay is currently undergoing extensive clinical evaluation at the NIH Clinical Center, USA.

If you would be interested in undertaking your own trial, please contact Prof. Steve Henry at The Centre for Kode Technology Innovation, School of Engineering, Auckland University of Technology (kiwi@aut.ac.nz).

Further information on Kode Technology is also available at www.kodecyte.com

View a simple video explanation at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAhZJN_gFKU

Contact
Prof. Steve Henry
Centre for Kode Technology Innovation,
School of Engineering,
Auckland University of Technology
Auckland, New Zealand
kiwi@aut.ac.nz
+64 21 715494

Collaboration Partner
Dr Bill Flegel MD
Chief, Laboratory Services Section
Department of Transfusion Medicine,
NIH Clinical Center,
National Institutes of Health,
Bethesda, MD, USA;
bill.flegel@nih.gov
+1-301-594-7401

Collaboration Partner
Mary-Jane O'Sullivan
General Manager
Immulab – A Paragon Care Brand
63 Poplar Road, Parkville
VIC 3052 Australia
mary-jane.osullivan@paragoncare.com.au
1300 369 559
immulab.com.au

Media Enquiries
Nicola Igusa
Communications Manager
Auckland University of Technology
nicola.igusa@aut.ac.nz
+64 21 844 285

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