

BIOCAPTIVA spins out from the University of Edinburgh with proprietary cfDNA capture technology to revolutionise liquid biopsy testing for cancer management

- *BioCaptor technology captures up to 100x more cfDNA than a venous blood draw*
- *Ability to unlock full potential of liquid biopsy for cancer management, a global market estimated to be worth \$6bn by 2025¹*
 - *Company backed by seed funding from Archangels and Scottish Enterprise*
 - *First in human trial with BioCaptor to begin 2022*

Edinburgh, UK – April 1, 2021 – BIOCAPTIVA Ltd (“BIOCAPTIVA”), a company developing the BioCaptor, a revolutionary cell free DNA (cfDNA) capture device, which has the potential to transform liquid biopsy testing for cancer management, has spun out from the University of Edinburgh.

Liquid biopsy testing for cancer management is significantly limited by insufficient quantities of cfDNA for analysis, with only late-stage and high cfDNA shedding tumours amenable to liquid biopsy testing. The BioCaptor, in development by BIOCAPTIVA, addresses this challenge, being able to extract up to 100x more cfDNA than a venous blood draw, providing higher quantity and quality cfDNA, removing the need for amplification and ultradeep sequencing, and providing for high assay sensitivity and accuracy.

The increase in cfDNA available for analysis provided by the BioCaptor, expands the applicability of liquid biopsy testing from a currently estimated 10-15% of cancers to >95%. The BioCaptor has the potential to enable earlier and more accurate diagnosis of cancers without the need for physical biopsy of the tumour. This will enhance clinical data and the ability to monitor patients during or post treatment, to track remission and help direct therapy.

The BioCaptor has been developed from a decade of research led by Professor Tim Aitman, Director of the Centre for Genomic and Experimental Medicine at the University of Edinburgh, and Professor Mark Bradley of the University’s School of Chemistry. Both researchers are co-founders and directors of the company.

BIOCAPTIVA is backed by seed funding from Edinburgh-based business angel investment syndicate, Archangels, and Scottish Enterprise. The seed investment will allow the company to gather further preclinical efficacy and safety data, appoint a contract development and research organization and prepare for and initiate the first in human trial using the BioCaptor device.

BIOCAPTIVA has the potential to provide diagnostic companies and treating clinicians with high levels of cfDNA from individual patients which could revolutionise the use of liquid biopsy in cancer management and provide diagnostic information that could transform the prospects for many cancer patients. The innovative technology is easily applied to existing apheresis protocols, a widely used, medical out-patient procedure already clinically validated and accepted, with significant existing installed base of machines.

A recent report estimates that the global liquid biopsy market could be worth more than \$6 billion by 2025¹, while the BioCaptor device offers the potential to significantly further expand this market beyond the current range and stage of applicable cancers.



Jeremy Wheeler, CEO of BIOCAPTIVA, said “The power of the BioCaptor to capture up to 100x more cfDNA than a venous blood draw is truly remarkable. The proprietary technology developed from the research led by Tim Aitman and Mark Bradley at The University of Edinburgh has demonstrated clearly the potential to revolutionise liquid biopsy for cancer management and expand the market beyond the estimated \$6 billion. Earlier diagnosis, better informed treatment and monitoring, in addition to enhancing clinical data will improve patient outcomes, in addition to reducing the economic and resource burden on healthcare systems associated with late-stage cancers. I look forward to working with the team to advance this exciting technology into the first in human trial with the BioCaptor in 2022 which will further validate the technology for our unique approach.”

References

1. Global Liquid Biopsy Market To Grow From USD 812 Million In 2018 To USD 6,014 Million By 2025, Adroit Market Research, February 2020.

About BIOCAPTIVA

BIOCAPTIVA is developing the BioCaptor, a revolutionary medical device which has the potential to transform liquid biopsy testing for cancer management by improving early diagnosis, monitoring and enhancing clinical trial data of patients. The BioCaptor captures up to 100x more cell free DNA (cfDNA) than a venous blood draw, yielding cfDNA in high quality and quantity for testing, addressing the major challenge of liquid biopsy in cancer management. This will potentially allow the testing of a far greater number of cancer types and stages in a much wider range of patients.

BIOCAPTIVA was founded in 2021 when it spun out from the University of Edinburgh. BIOCAPTIVA is based in Edinburgh and backed by Archangels and Scottish Enterprise.

For more information, please visit www.biocaptiva.com

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