

# DCN Dx & BIOASTER Announce Collaboration for Development of Multiplex Rapid Diagnostic for Neglected Tropical Diseases

*Grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop rapid test for Onchocerciasis*

CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES, August 22, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- CARLSBAD, Calif.—DCN Dx, a global leader in the end-to-end development, manufacturing, and commercialization of point-of-use tests, and BIOASTER, the French Technology Research Institute focusing on microbiology and infectious diseases, announced a collaboration as part of a second grant to BIOASTER for onchocerciasis diagnosis from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



“

We're striving to make a real difference in global health, and our partnership with BIOASTER on this vital project exemplifies that mission.”

*Mitzi Rettinger, Chief Revenue Officer, DCN Dx*

Onchocerciasis, also known as river blindness, stands as the second leading cause of infectious blindness worldwide. According to estimates by the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 25 million people are infected globally, with another 90 million at risk. Over 99% of these cases occur in Africa, and vision loss affects around 1.15 million individuals.

This project follows a first grant awarded to BIOASTER in 2019. The main goal is to enhance the specificity of the

Ov16-rapid test, especially in relation to *Loa loa* and *Mansonella perstans* helminths, to achieve the 99.8% specificity as recommended by the WHO Diagnostic Technical Advisory Group (DTAG). This test would support onchocerciasis elimination and evaluation of preventive chemotherapy programs.

In partnership with the Laboratory of Parasitic Disease (NIAID) and DCN Dx, BIOASTER aims to

develop an advanced multiplex lateral flow assay for detecting *Onchocerca volvulus* antibodies in human blood. This diagnostic tool will incorporate a combination of innovative and complementary *O. volvulus* antigens. The selection and evaluation of these antigens will take place at BIOASTER.

The diagnostic performance of the test will be assessed using onchocerciasis specimens and other parasitic helminths collected in the field and characterized under the supervision of Pr. Joseph KAMGNO at the Higher Institute of Scientific and Medical Research in Yaoundé (ISM), Cameroon ([www.ismcm.org](http://www.ismcm.org)).

Xavier Morge (CEO, BIOASTER) noted, "We are proud that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has continued its support as we aim to improve onchocerciasis diagnosis in the coming years."

"This new grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is a great example of BIOASTER's commitment to accelerate the development of a lateral flow test with high specificity for the diagnosis of onchocerciasis," said Cyril GUYARD (CSO, BIOASTER).

Patrick Vaughan (COO, DCN Dx) expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration, stating, "We are delighted to partner with BIOASTER's scientific team to transform their key *O. volvulus* antigen research into a user-friendly and highly specific lateral flow test to advance onchocerciasis diagnosis."

"DCN Dx's core purpose extends beyond the technicalities of diagnostics," Mitzi Rettinger (Chief Revenue Officer, DCN Dx) explained. "We're striving to make a real difference in global health, and our partnership with BIOASTER on this vital project exemplifies that mission. By accelerating the development of a cutting-edge multiplex rapid test for African river blindness, we're making a tangible contribution to a world with less suffering from this devastating disease."

## About BIOASTER

Created in 2012, following the French initiative of Technology Research Institutes, BIOASTER is a not-for-profit foundation developing a unique technological and innovative model to support the latest challenges in microbiology. In particular, BIOASTER uses and develops high value technological innovations that accelerate development of medical solutions for populations and personalized medicine. The aim of BIOASTER is to bring together academic, industry and its capacities and specific knowledge to develop and execute high impact collaborative projects



Created in 2012, following the French initiative of Technology Research Institutes, BIOASTER is a not-for-profit foundation developing a unique technological and innovative model to support the latest challenges in microbiology.

requiring industry compatible innovative technologies.

Key figures:

- 4 fields of expertise: antimicrobials, diagnostics, microbiome, vaccines
- BSL2 & BSL3 laboratories in Lyon and Paris
- 110+ employees, including 80% of scientific experts, 15 nationalities
- 330+ research contracts, involving 93 private partners, 54 public partners.

Press contact for BIOASTER: [olivier.charzat@bioaster.org](mailto:olivier.charzat@bioaster.org) / [www.bioaster.org](http://www.bioaster.org)

About DCN Dx

DCN Dx, based in Carlsbad, California, is a global leader in IVD CDMO and CRO services. Our multidisciplinary team specializes in creating tailored assay systems, consumables, and instruments for point-of-use applications, with a particular expertise in lateral flow assays.

Our personalized approach to IVD product development has supported more than 560 programs from over 260 clients. We can oversee every stage from concept to assay development and platform integration, through clinical trials to manufacturing or only handle the aspects you request. In addition to lateral flow assays, our clinical research expertise extends to a wide range of IVD devices, all with a focus on innovation, usability, and performance.

With a commitment to quality, customer satisfaction, and industry-leading expertise, DCN Dx is setting the benchmark for excellence in IVD services. To learn more about how we can support your diagnostic needs, visit [dcndx.com](http://dcndx.com).

Mitzi Rettinger

DCN Dx

+1 512-431-5836

[mrettinger@dcndx.com](mailto:mrettinger@dcndx.com)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

---

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/651363078>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

