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Transforming bioanalytics

Invitrocue further validates its Onco-PDO technology platform through the successful growth of 14 liver cancer organoids

January 18, 2018 - Invitrocue Limited (ASX: IVQ), a leading healthcare bio-analytic solutions provider, is pleased to announce the publication of its latest paper around the successful generation of patient-specific liver cancer organoids outside a human body, or patient-derived xenografts, on the study of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), a form of liver cancer, in the journal *Biomaterials*.

Liver cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer death worldwide, with HCC accounting for up to 90% of this disease. Current mice tumor models are limited by high costs and low throughput, and as a result there is a significant unmet medical need for improved preclinical models for current HCC-targeted therapies.

The paper outlines the successful growth of 14 patient-derived xenografts, or tumor organoids, through Invitrocue's proprietary technology platform Onco-PDO. Generated to improve cancer drug-testing purposes and to ease the prediction of patient-drug response, the organoids were found to closely represent human tumor biology.

Invitrocue co-founder, Professor Hanry Yu commented, "The successful growth of these organoids is an excellent testament to the feasibility of our Onco-PDO platform. Despite the fact that HCC tumors are typically harder to grow outside the human body in relation to other solid tumor cells, our approach has also been found to bear a high degree of similarity to the *actual* HCC tumor cells within the patient body, which makes it an ideal preclinical drug model."

"We are pleased with the position that Invitrocue is building at the forefront of the growing field of personalized oncology medicine. The publication of this paper paves the way for the utilization of our Onco-PDO platform for further studies in HCC tumor drug development, and for the prediction of treatment response in each patient." said Steven Fang, Executive Officer of Invitrocue.

In 2017, previous studies validating the Onco-PDO platform technology in other cancer indications have also been published in high profile journals such as *Nature Communications* and *Nature Medicine*.

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For more information, please contact:

Martin D. Bach, VP Operations

T: +65 6460 0490

[Martind.bach@Invitrocue.com](mailto:Martin.d.bach@Invitrocue.com)

About Invitrocue

Invitrocue is a leading healthcare bio-analytic solutions provider including *in vitro* cell-based testing technologies and image analytics software for use in digital pathology. Invitrocue has developed a unique 3D cell-based scaffolding technology that mimics human organ samples for use in the field of infectious diseases. In 2016, Invitrocue expanded its work in liver diseases to the field of oncology. The technology enables patient-derived cancer cells (organoids) to be cultured in laboratories for testing against a panel of drugs to support clinical decision making for individual patients (personalised medicine). Invitrocue's technology originates from Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). Invitrocue's technologies have been developed and validated in partnerships with leading biopharmaceutical companies and scientific collaborators.