



SpeeDx Supports Papua New Guinea with COVID-19 Tests

Provision of SARS-CoV-2 tests reinforces PNG sovereign capacity to respond to ongoing pandemic

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA- (October, 2022). SpeeDx Pty. Ltd. a developer of innovative molecular diagnostics, announced they have donated **PlexPCR®** SARS-CoV-2 tests and **PlexPrime®** SARS-CoV-2 Genotyping reagents to support Papua New Guinea (PNG) in their response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

SpeeDx have a long-held relationship with the Kirby Institute, a world-leading health research institute at UNSW Sydney. The Kirby Institute is dedicated to eliminating infectious diseases, globally, and for more than two decades have worked in close collaboration and partnership with the PNG Institute of Medical Research (PNGIMR), national and provincial health authorities, development agencies, and communities in Papua New Guinea.

The PNGIMR was established in 1968 to conduct health and medical research into diseases affecting Papua New Guineans. Already deeply engaged in world-leading research on malaria, pneumonia, filariasis, respiratory disease, sexual and reproductive health, the PNGIMR has pivoted to swiftly take on a key role in the national COVID-19 response in the country.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the PNGIMR and the Kirby Institute have worked closely with leading government, academic, and development partners on a number of initiatives to strengthen the national response. One such initiative is a program driven by FIND, the global alliance for diagnostics, in the context of their broader role in the global Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator. The ACT-Accelerator diagnostics pillar, co-led by FIND, aims to significantly increase access to COVID-19 tests and sequencing, which will ensure effective test, trace, isolate, and treat strategies, as well as early identification and containment of new variants. Among other activities, in PNG the program is exploring optimal SARS-CoV-2 testing algorithms, training healthcare workers, enhancing laboratory quality assurance processes, trialling digital guidance tools, and piloting in-country SARS-CoV-2 Variant of Concern (VOC) detection, a process not previously undertaken in PNG.

"A key foundation when starting SpeeDx was to improve global access to quality healthcare" said Alison Todd, SpeeDx Chief Scientific Officer and co-founder. "We are thrilled to be in a position where we can support our closest neighbours and ensure they can retain and maintain sovereign capabilities for testing at such a critical time."

SpeeDx suite of PCR-based diagnostics are designed to work on a range of readily accessible laboratory equipment, reducing the complexity and costs of laboratory adoption and ideally positioning them for use across PNG, even in more remote settings.

"The introduction of Variant of Concern screening represents a new laboratory capacity for us at the PNGIMR and provides an important tool in PNG's toolkit for surveillance and responding to COVID-19. We are grateful for SpeeDx's support and

continued commitment to working with us in future to strengthen the COVID-19 response in PNG" Professor William Pomat, Director, PNGIMR.

*not available in the U.S.

About SpeeDx

Founded in 2009, SpeeDx is an Australian-based private company with offices in London and the US, and distributors across Europe. SpeeDx specializes in molecular diagnostic solutions that go beyond simple detection to offer comprehensive information for improved patient management. Innovative real-time polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) technology has driven market-leading multiplex detection and priming strategies. SpeeDx has a portfolio of CE-IVD kits for detection of infectious disease pathogens, sexually transmitted infection (STI), and antimicrobial resistance markers. SpeeDx ResistancePlus tests enable Resistance Guided Therapy, improving patient outcomes by empowering practitioners to make informed clinical decisions.

For more information about SpeeDx please see: <http://plexpcr.com>

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