

A novel method for early cancer diagnostics has been developed at University of Pardubice, the project has partnered with i&i Prague incubator.

Excerpt:

Pancreatic cancer is the most insidious oncological disease. Thanks to the new diagnostic method developed by the team of prof. Holčapek, University of Pardubice, patients around the world could get a better chance of early detection of the disease and better prognosis of its treatment. The university has now joined forces with the Czech biotech incubator i & i Prague, which has provided the scientific team with the first investment support to further develop the project to bring the product to market within a few years.

Full text:

Pancreatic cancer is one of the most dangerous and most aggressive types of cancer. According to recent data, the twelfth most common malignant disease in the world. It is also associated with a high mortality rate, and it is the seventh of the most common causes of deaths for both sexes in cancer in general. In addition, the incidence has increased in recent years and can be expected to move to the third position ahead of breast cancer (Globocan 2018).

Scientific teams around the world are looking for methods for early diagnostics of cancer. Among these is the team of Prof. Michal Holčapek of the University of Pardubice. "We have developed new methods for the lipidomic analysis of body fluids, predominantly blood, which distinguish patients with several types of cancer from healthy volunteers. We are currently working on pancreatic cancer data, where early diagnosis in early stages is the only chance for survival," described Prof. Holčapek the goal of the project.

The research project of Prof. Holčapek has been awarded the European Research Council (ERC) grant and has been financially supported by the Ministry of Education of the Czech republic. Recently, the University of Pardubice has signed the memorandum with Czech Biotech incubator i&i Prague establishing a strategic collaboration towards further commercial development of the technology in order to introduce the novel diagnostic methods into the world market. i&i Prague is going to support the project with 20k EUR in the very first phase to ensure the business plan development and to cover further analyses to verify the commercial potential of the method and develop solid patent protection of the technology.

"Once we are able to confirm the potential of the technology, we are ready to invest up to 200k EUR in this project and invite further co-investors," commented Jaromír Zahrádka, CEO of i&i Prague, adding at the same time: "Prof. Holčapek's project is a world-class science. However, it needs to be properly developed to become the comprehensible and ready-made business opportunity for investors and corporate partners. This is a necessary step to offer this promising technology to patients in the future."

"The accuracy of our method is more than 90% for the very first stage of pancreatic cancer. However, the accuracy of other state-of-the-art and promising methods was reported to be only 43%, according to the results published in Science magazine. The high accuracy of the method for early stages is a key parameter. Early diagnostics in oncology is crucial to improving patient prognosis and increasing survival chances," commented further Prof. Holčapek a key competitive advantage of his technology.

The project is currently undergoing the clinical testing and beside the pancreatic cancer detection, highly promising results has been obtained for other cancer types which uncovered a potential for further exploitation of the technology.

Biotechnology Incubator i&i Prague supports projects by scientists and researchers focusing on technologies in medicine, biotechnology, diagnostics and drug development. It takes care of the business part of the projects, leads and plans their business direction, looks for partners and takes care of technological marketing.

About University of Pardubice:

[The University of Pardubice](#) has been extending almost seventy year long tradition of higher education in the Pardubice Region. The Chemical College (later known as the Institute of Chemical Technology) was founded in 1950 to answer the needs of the East Bohemia Region, which had a highly developed chemical industry providing extensive opportunities for research in the field. The character of the Institute notably changed after 1990: new faculties were founded, offering a wide range of study programmes, not only chemistry-related. The name - University of Pardubice - has been used since 1994 reflecting the new character of the educational institution. Based on longstanding tradition, the university is committed to making educational opportunity accessible to the diverse student population from across the Czech Republic and more than 60 countries abroad.

About i&i Prague:

[i&i Prague](#), is a technology transfer organization that is scouting and supporting the growth of the most promising projects emanating from academic institutions from the CEE region, and helping to take them through the riskiest part of the journey to market. Benefitting from the know-how and project-management experience of IOCB Prague and IOCB TTO in concert with their financial support, i&i Prague is accelerating the proof-of-concept stage of projects in the field of Medtech, Diagnostics and Drug discovery. i&i Prague focuses on projects in discovery, pre-seed or seed phase; projects with excellent innovative potential that will benefit from the project-launching experience and networking skills developed by IOCB TTO over the last decade. Furthermore, financial support provided by i&i Prague should significantly increase the appeal and value of a project for further licensees or investors.

For additional information, please contact:

University of Pardubice

email: Karolina.Kasparova@upce.cz

i&i Prague

email: info@iniprague.com



