Genetic Analysis AS awarded NOK 16 million (EUR 1,6 million) to develop new microbiome marker to aid treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)

(Oslo, 15. June 2021) Molecular diagnostics specialist, Genetic Analysis AS (GA) today announced that the Norwegian Research Council has approved GA's grant application of NOK 16 million for its project developing new innovative microbiome-based diagnostics to be used to aid selection and treatment of IBD patients.

In this project, GA will develop an easy to use, in vitro diagnostic test that profiles gut microbiota to predict disease progression and treatment regimes in patients with ulcerative colitis. The development and validation of the test will be done in close collaboration with R&D partners at Akershus University Hospital (Prof. Stephan Brackmann), Norway and Sahlgrenska University Hospital/University of Gothenburg (Prof. Lena Öhman), Sweden.

"We are pleased to receive this grant from the Norwegian Research Council in supporting GA's work to improve the treatment regime for IBD patients. This will not only improve treatment outcome and quality of life for patients suffering this debilitating disease but also contribute to lowering the huge costs related to treatment," commented Ronny Hermansen, CEO of Genetic Analysis.

"Improved treatment regimens for IBD patients represent a major unmet medical need, and patients will benefit strongly from new innovative markers that can aide diagnoses and selection of treatment for these life-long diseases. We look forward to supporting GA in their development of new innovative diagnostics for IBD patients" says leading IBD authority Prof. Lena Öhman, Professor of Immunology, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

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About Genetic Analysis

Genetic Analysis AS (GA) is a science-based diagnostic company and pioneer in the human microbiome field with more than 10 years of expertise in research and product development. The unique GA-map® platform is based on a pre-targeted multiplex approach specialized for simultaneous analysis of a large number of bacteria in one reaction. The test results are generated by utilizing the clinically validated cutting edge GA-map® software algorithm. This enables immediate results without the need of further bioinformatics work.GA's vision is to become the leading company for standardized gut microbiota testing worldwide, and GA is committed to help unlocking and restoring the human microbiome through its state-of-the-art technology. GA holds 22 highly qualified employees with relevant scientific backgrounds and with competence in bioinformatics, molecular biology, and bioengineering.www.genetic-analysis.com

About IBD

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), is the umbrella term for the condition under which both Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC) fall. Both CD and UC are marked by an abnormal response by the body's immune system, and they may share some symptoms. However, there are important differences as well. These distinctions primarily include the location of the maladies in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract and the way each disease responds to treatment. Understanding these features is key to obtaining a proper diagnosis from a gastroenterologist. IBD is a chronic lifelong disease and is treated when symptoms appear. Up to 40% of IBD patients do not respond appropriately on available treatment (non-responders). IBD is in need of improved diagnostics that can aide in diagnosing and selection of treatment.

In EU and US, some 7 million people suffer from IBD. Since the disease starts early in life, the lifetime cost of treating these patients is huge and it could be up to USD 600k per patient compared to some USD 100k for a Rheumatoid Arthritis patient. Source: Lichtenstein et al. (2019) Lifetime Economic Burden of Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis by Age at Diagnosis.