

The Netherlands Cancer Institute awarded funding to apply molecular imaging technology to prostate cancer surgery

The Netherlands Cancer Institute (NKI) announced today that it has received funding from the Dutch Cancer Society (KWF Kankerbestrijding) to test whether a novel molecular imaging technology can guide prostate cancer surgery. The project will evaluate the imaging technology's ability to detect prostate cancer during surgery, with the aim of performing more accurate removal of cancerous tissue.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men in Europe with over 350,000 diagnosed in Europe every year. Complete removal of malignant tissue during prostate cancer surgery can be challenging, especially in later-stage disease, as it can be difficult to distinguish between cancerous and non-cancerous tissue. Accordingly, there is a crucial need for new technologies to help surgeons visualize cancer in real time during an operation to ensure that the cancer has been completely removed.

In the joint research project, the Netherlands Cancer Institute, University of Twente and industry partners, Lightpoint Medical and Philips will evaluate a novel molecular imaging technology Imaging to image the prostate cancer biomarker Prostate Specific Membrane Antigen (PSMA) during surgery. If successful, the technology will be tested in larger clinical trials with the aim of sparing healthy tissue and reducing recurrence rates in prostate cancer surgery.

Dr Marcel Stokkel, Nuclear Medicine Physician at NKI, commented, "If this technique is successful, we will be able to guide the urologist in the most optimal way by combining pre-operative staging with per-operative imaging using the same tracer. If the resection margins can be assessed with highest accuracy during surgery, we might become able to improve recurrence and survival rates. The collaboration with Lightpoint Medical, Philips and the University of Twente is the most optimal setting to reach this goal and to complete this study."

"We are delighted to embark on this collaboration with the NKI and Philips. Intraoperative molecular imaging holds enormous potential in prostate cancer surgery. This project will bring the technology a step closer to the patients in need of better treatment options" commented Dr David Tuch, CEO of Lightpoint Medical

About the Netherlands Cancer Institute

The Netherlands Cancer Institute has been at the international forefront of cancer care and research for already more than a century. The unique combination of health care and scientific research within the same institute offers great benefits for cancer patients. Specialized cancer care professionals work together in multidisciplinary teams to set up and carry out treatment plans tailored to the needs of individual patients because no two tumors are alike. Cancer patients or people suspected of having cancer come to our hospital, known as the Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, to make use of this personalized approach and the state-of-the-art research and treatment facilities. The research institute employs more than 700 scientists investigating many aspects of cancer development, diagnosis, treatment and epidemiology. Scientists at the Netherlands Cancer Institute have access to state-of-the-art research facilities supporting their basic, translational and clinical research. This scientific research could not be carried out without the institutional support of the Dutch Cancer Society, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports, the many research grants obtained by our researchers from (inter)national funding agencies, and the generous donations made by individuals that support our research program. The Netherlands Cancer Institute is the only

OECD designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in the Netherlands. For more information please visit our websites www.nki.nl and www.avl.nl.

About Lightpoint Medical

Lightpoint Medical is an innovative medical device company dedicated to improving health outcomes for cancer patients through molecular-guided surgery. The company's first product the LightPath™ Imaging System is the world's first approved device for intraoperative molecular imaging. LightPath™ has the potential to detect cancer in real time during surgery and thereby reduce the need for repeat operations. Lightpoint Medical -- Bringing Light to Cancer Surgery™. For more information visit www.lightpointmedical.com

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