Press release

Eurofins Genomics donates to rare disease foundation NCL on Batten disease

Ebersberg, 28.02.2021

Eurofins Genomics is proud to donate on behalf of the Eurofins Foundation to the NCL Foundation's research project "Dissecting the CLN3 function". It has been found that Batten disease in children is linked to a mutated *CLN3* gene. The provided funding supports the development of a *CLN3* assay for a proposal at the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). This would form the basis to implement an approved diagnostics tool for Battens disease. To achieve that, the charity organization is now able to create a PhD position that focuses exclusively on the research of the Battens disease. Dr. Emyr Lloyd-Evans will oversee the research and the newly created position will be part of his team (s. picture below).

Rare diseases affect around 300 million people around the world. There are around 7,000 rare diseases and most of them are caused by genetic alterations such as the Batten disease. The symptoms of this neural diseases manifest early in life and turn children blind at school age. The affected children also develop dementia, motor problems and are plagued by epileptic seizures. Usually, they die in their twenties.

Until now, Batten disease, which encompasses a group of disorders called neuronal ceroid lipofuscinoses (NCLs), has hardly been researched. However, the NCL Foundation committed itself to initiating, supporting and funding research on NCLs. It also brings together professionals and groups from different fields to allow for an easier exchange of expertise and research findings.

Dr. Emyr Lloyd-Evans
Research Group Leader
Senior Lecturer at Cardiff University

About NCL Foundation

The non-profit NCL Foundation was founded in 2002 and is dedicated to national and international research funding, with the objective to give children with NCL (Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis aka Batten disease) a perspective for a long-needed treatment. Children turn blind at school age, develop seizures and motor problems as well as dementia. They usually die in their twenties. The NCL Foundation initiates, supports and funds research projects around the globe and encourages exchange of scientific expertise by connecting professionals and research groups from the respective fields. An extensive, sustainable network of NCL specialists, well established research cooperations and purposefully selected projects, form a strong underlying basis to facilitate a future without childhood dementia. In Addition, the NCL Foundation does important work to raise awareness for the rare disease, in the general public as well as in the medical environment, with the aim to enable an early diagnosis for affected children and offer support for the families. Also to be highlighted is the NCL Research Award, which is awarded regularly to projects that contribute to curing NCL and the Neurodegeneration Award that has the aim to foster and improve synergies in research into NCL childhood dementia and age-related neurodegeneration.

NCL-Stiftung
Für eine Zukunft ohne Kinderdemenz

For Further Information on Eurofins Foundation:

Media Contact: Emilie Fillod
Manager at Eurofins Foundation
+32 2 303 5568
EmilieFillod@eurofins.com

Eurofins Foundation Website: https://www.eurofins.com/eurofins-foundation/

For Further Information:

Media Contact: Julian Schlossmacher
Head of Marketing and Communications Eurofins Genomics Europe
+49 8092 8289 925
julianschlossmacher@eurofins.com

Eurofins Genomics Website: www.eurofinsgenomics.com

Notes to Editors:

About Eurofins Genomics – a global leader in genomic products and services Eurofins Genomics, a member of the Eurofins Group with facilities in Europe, the United States and Asia, is an internationally leading provider of DNA sequencing services, next generation sequencing services, genotyping services, DNA synthesis products and bioinformatics services for pharma, diagnostics, food, agriculture, biotechnological and research markets. The company's strength is its extensive customer base and high quality services in industrial scale for the life science industries and academic research institutions around the world. For further information, please visit the Eurofins Genomics website.

About Eurofins – the global leader in bio-analysis

Eurofins Scientific, through its subsidiaries (hereinafter "Eurofins" or "the Group"), believes it is the global leader in food, environmental, pharmaceutical and cosmetics products testing and in agroscience CRO services. It is also one of the global independent market leaders in certain testing and laboratory services for genomics, discovery pharmacology, forensics, CDMO, advanced material sciences and in the support of clinical studies. In addition, Eurofins is one of the leading global emerging players in esoteric and molecular clinical diagnostic testing. With over 50,000 staff across a network of more than 900 independent companies in over 50 countries generally specialised by end client markets and operating more than 800 laboratories, Eurofins offers a portfolio of over 200,000 analytical methods to evaluate the safety, identity, composition, authenticity, origin, traceability and purity of a wide range of products, as well as providing innovative clinical diagnostic testing services. The Group's objective is to provide its customers with high-quality and innovative services, accurate results on time and, when requested, expert advice by its highly-qualified staff.

Eurofins is committed to pursuing its dynamic growth strategy by expanding both its technology portfolio and its geographic reach. Through R&D and acquisitions, the Group draws on the latest developments in the field of biotechnology and analytical chemistry to offer its clients unique analytical solutions and a very large range of testing methods.

As one of the most innovative and quality-oriented international groups in its industry, Eurofins is ideally positioned to support its clients' increasingly stringent quality and safety standards and the increasing demands of regulatory authorities and healthcare practitioners around the world. Shares in Eurofins Scientific are listed on the Euronext Paris Stock Exchange (ISIN FR0014000MR3, Reuters EUFI.PA, Bloomberg ERF FP).