



Charles River Announces Strategic Partnership with Cypre, Expanding 3D In Vitro Services for Cancer Immunotherapy and Targeted Therapy Drug Screening

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Collaboration will provide access to Falcon-X™ 3D Tumor Model Platform

WILMINGTON, Mass. & SAN FRANCISCO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jan. 28, 2021-- Charles River Laboratories International, Inc. (NYSE: CRL) today announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership with Cypre, Inc., a biotechnology company that is using 3D hydrogel technology to advance the understanding of the tumor microenvironment and predict therapeutic efficacy. The partnership will provide Charles River clients with access to Cypre's proprietary 3D tumor model platform, Falcon-X™, which will expand Charles River's 3D *in vitro* testing services to further optimize immunological approaches for its clients.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20210128005203/en/>

The Falcon-X™ 3D *In Vitro* Tumor Assay Platform is a high content analysis screening option for cancer immunotherapy and targeted therapy. Utilizing Cypre's patented 3D hydrogel patterning technology, Symphony® and VersaGel®, and proprietary methods that synergize with the breadth and depth of Charles River's tumor model collection, the platform recreates the tumor microenvironment and enables predictive screening of innovative immunology compounds. As a part of Charles River's integrated tumor model service platform, including patient-derived xenografts (PDX), Falcon-X™ will provide human data that translates to the clinic and identifies the efficacy of specific immunotherapy and targeted therapeutic treatments for patients.

Charles River offers a range of cancer cell-based assays, including PDX assays and assays representing the entire tumor microenvironment (TME), so therapies are not only tested for their effect on real patient materials, but also their interaction with the human immune systems. Through this collaboration, Charles River will now have a critical new addition to our human oncology assay repertoire, allowing identification of therapeutics that overcome cancer immunotherapy resistance.

The partnership will also allow Cypre to screen multiple therapeutic modalities alone or in combination utilizing Charles River's genomically annotated and *in vivo* characterized cancer model [database](#). The database is comprised of more than 700 tumor models, including PDX, cell lines and cell line derived xenografts. These models have been extensively profiled for histological features, molecular data, and sensitivity to standard-of-care compounds, allowing a precise selection of suitable tumor models for preclinical anti-cancer agent testing. The biological advantages of PDX include the retention of histological and genetic characteristics of the donor tumor and the preservation of cell-autonomous heterogeneity, which increase the translational relevance of the Cypre platform significantly. The breadth and depth of Charles River's cancer model database enable the offering of a clinically relevant tumor panel in Cypre's innovative 3D platform, and the platform's compelling predictivity for *in vivo* PDX models allows streamlined programs and translation to the clinic.

Approved Quotes

- "Immunotherapy is a complex, yet promising area of development in cancer treatment. Cypre's platform enables the ideal tumor culturing conditions for assaying various immunotherapies and targeted therapies and provides robust, reproducible data sets without compromising throughput that strongly correlates to our PDX *in vivo* results. By broadening our 3D *in vitro* services with this collaboration, we can provide our clients with a complete, integrated tumor model service platform." – Birgit Girshick, Corporate Executive Vice President, Discovery and Safety Assessment, Biologics Testing Solutions, and Avian Vaccine Services, Charles River
- "Charles River is the premier CRO in discovery and early development services, and we are thrilled to partner with their team to drive a combined offering. Our Falcon-X™ platform provides Charles River customers with expanded access to patient-derived 3D *in vitro* screening services and a new way to assay the immune cell compartment within the tumor microenvironment. We look forward to building this relationship and providing more customers with our unique solution that will improve targeted and immuno-therapeutic options for cancer patients." – Kolin Hribar, PhD, Founder and CEO, Cypre

About Charles River

Charles River provides essential products and services to help pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, government agencies and leading academic institutions around the globe accelerate their research and drug development efforts. Our dedicated employees are focused on providing clients with exactly what they need to improve and expedite the discovery, early-stage development and safe manufacture of new therapies for the patients who need them. To learn more about our unique portfolio and breadth of services, visit www.criver.com.

About Cypre

Cypre has developed Falcon-X™, the 3D *in vitro* tumor model platform that assays targeted and immuno-therapy efficacy in the tumor microenvironment. We are now applying this approach with strategic partners for therapeutic discovery, lead validation, and precision medicine. To learn more about us, visit www.cypre.co.

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