NON-INVASIVE PREGNATAL DIAGNOSIS FOR DOWN SYNDROME

Laboratoire Cerba is proud to announce its partnership with the American laboratory Sequenom for performing in France the genetic test on maternal blood enabling the non-invasive prenatal diagnosis of Down Syndrome.

Laboratoire CERBA announces the signature of a partnership agreement with Sequenom, an American reference laboratory in molecular diagnosis.

Sequenom is at the origin of the first non-invasive prenatal diagnosis test for Down Syndrome used in diagnostic routine and it is currently the global leader in the field with over 100 000 tests performed since October 2011.

Performing this test requires medical and technical expertise, human resources specialized in molecular genomics, high-throughput sequencing and bio-informatics analysis technologies and a dedicated infrastructure now available at Laboratoire Cerba.

Laboratoire Cerba will closely collaborate with Sequenom for transferring the technology enabling to make available for healthcare professionals this non-invasive genetic test for Down Syndrome and other main aneuploidies. It should therefore become the first laboratory in France and one of the few in Europe, Africa and the Middle-East to perform this test in its entirety. Now acknowledged by the medical authorities and the National Consultative Ethics Committee, this non-invasive test for fetal trisomy 21 is considered a breakthrough in the management of pregnant women at risk.

Laboratoire Cerba is the European leader for non-invasive testing. It offers for several years the determination of fetal sex, Rhesus D and Kell blood groups and some genetic diseases like achondroplasia. “We have a long-term experience in analysing the fetal DNA circulating the plasma of pregnant women and all legitimacy to perform this type of tests”, say Jean-Marc Costa, vice-director in charge of the molecular genetics department at Laboratoire Cerba. “The analysis is of great complexity and we work in close relationship with teams of obstetricians in the context of a multicentric study whose results should be published by October 2013. Beyond prenatal diagnosis where its interest is obvious, this technology opens unbelievable perspectives in the context of genetic diseases, oncology and infectious diseases”.

Press release