

TECHNIDATA and HC Forum are joining forces, combining their technical expertise to offer innovative genetic, molecular biology, anatomic pathology and clinical research solutions.

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Following the acquisition of HC Forum's business, TECHNIDATA, the specialist supplier of clinical laboratory management systems, now offers new dedicated management solutions for biobanks and medical genetics centers (clinical, chromosomal, molecular, and oncogenetic), as well as collaborative platforms for clinical research and health networks.

A powerful force in genetics

In line with its strategy for innovation, and in the desire to provide solutions that are developed in collaboration with specialists in the disciplines concerned, TECHNIDATA has chosen the renowned expertise of HC Forum to supplement its software range, in particular in the field of genetics.

"We already market solutions for the majority of laboratory disciplines", says François Falco, President and CEO of the TECHNIDATA Group, "and the acquisition of HC Forum's business will allow us to broaden our product range to include other fields closely related to genetics and anatomic pathology. With the advances in medical research, genetics has become a fast-growing discipline in need of efficient management tools. Olivier Cohen, MD, PhD, anatomic pathologist, medical geneticist, and professor of medical information technology at Grenoble Hospital and the Joseph Fourier University in Grenoble, is a forerunner in this field. We are therefore delighted that he is joining us as Scientific Director, and that he is bringing the whole of his team with him. Professor Cohen's many years of experience will be of considerable benefit to Technidata", adds Mr. Falco.

"I created HC Forum to build upon the results of more than fifteen years of university research by a team working for the joint venture between Joseph Fourier University/Center for National Scientific Research (CRNS) and Grenoble Hospital, aiming to establish a link between clinical research and medical practice. It seemed important to me to identify which applications were likely to satisfy the specific needs of clinical research and medical practices that would be modified as a result of the growth in genetics research. HC Forum benefited from the law on innovation and from being an innovative start-up business (an "Entreprise Innovante" in France), but we lacked the support that a larger organization would give us to continue developing our projects. Becoming a part of TECHNIDATA will be an important springboard to ensuring that we continue to develop and distribute our solutions both in France and internationally, thanks to TECHNIDATA's distribution network", explains Professor Cohen.

Solutions that respond even more closely to user needs

As a result of many years of experience, HC Forum solutions are perfectly suited to the very specific needs of the specialty fields closely related to pathology and genetics:

- The **Biobank (CRB) solution** manages specimen banks, both in terms of their functional differences (DNA banks, serum banks, tissue banks, etc) and their quality requirements in a multi-site context, so as to optimize the use of biological resources for medical research.
- The **Genetics (Genet) module** responds perfectly to the complex issues faced by medical genetics departments. With a clinical genetics module centered on patients and their families (consent, previous family history, dynamic family tree, etc), it allows staff working in cyto-genetics and molecular genetics laboratories to establish real diagnostic protocols thanks to its workflow definition module. This module satisfies the rigorous standards for security and confidentiality required for certification, and also allows full traceability of operating procedures in the laboratory: reagent traceability, management of non-conformities, process audits, etc.

Integrating these new solutions into its existing range of products offers TECHNIDATA new perspectives for development.

About TECHNIDATA (www.technidata-web.com)

With over 30 years' experience in the field of laboratory management, the TECHNIDATA Group has become one of the leading global software suppliers for clinical and pathology laboratory information systems (LIS) and instrument workstations. Present in Europe, the Americas and Asia, the company, with more than 200 employees and a network of distribution partners, has over 750 LIS sites worldwide. Developed in full compliance with the ISO 9001/ISO 13485 quality standards, TECHNIDATA software products are distributed in more than 25 countries, and cover all clinical laboratory disciplines: including Biochemistry, Hematology, Immunology, Bacteriology, Virology, Histology, Cytology, Genetics, Blood Banking, and Transplant Management. Our products and services include:

- Laboratory Information Systems (**TD-Synergy**[®] suite)
- Middleware solutions (**TD-Harmony**[®] suite)
- Instrument workstations
- Point Of Care Testing manager
- Web-based requests and results module
- International customer services and support activities

About HC Forum (www.hcforum.fr)

HC Forum's products and expertise are the fruit of 15 years of research and development within the UMR 5525 research center of the Joseph Fourier University of Grenoble, led by Professor J. Demongeot. The company was created in April 2005 by Olivier Cohen, MD, PhD under the terms of the law on innovation. Ever since its creation, HC Forum has focused on customer needs, and today has more than 20 customer sites in France and Canada. Products and services include:

- **HC Net**[®], a secure computerized solution for collaborative working, developed to coordinate medical practice and clinical research in subject-specific networks accessible over a highly secure internet connection
- **HC Channel**[®], the link between HC Local[®] and HC Net[®]
- **HC Local**[®], a range of software packages used to manage daily operations, including:
 - **HC CRB**[®], a collaborative tool used to prepare, preserve and transfer biological resources of scientific interest, respecting institutional programs and good practice
 - **HC Genet**[®], a software solution dedicated to Genetics laboratories and clinical genetics departments, designed to collect family and individual patient data, and to manage the traceability of specimens collected for diagnostic purposes
- Services: advice, system development, technical support

About Professor Olivier Cohen

With a degree in Medicine and a Doctorate in Sciences, Olivier Cohen specialized in pathology then medical genetics before being appointed as Professor of medical information technology. For 15 years, while practicing as a medical geneticist at Grenoble Hospital, he led a research team in a joint venture between Joseph Fourier University-CNRS, and started up HC Forum in April 2005 to build on the innovations resulting from this multi-disciplinary research.

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