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HIROTSU BIO SCIENCE INC.

The local authorities of the cities of Kurume and Ogori are the first in Japan to take part in verification trials aimed at commercialization of the N-NOSE nematode cancer screening test

Thanks to the olfactory capacity of organisms, the new N-NOSE primary screening test can be done simply, highly accurately, and inexpensively. The developer, Hirotsu Bio Science Inc., will start final verification trials in October with the aim of commercializing N-NOSE by next January. This is to inform you that a press conference was held to announce that the local authorities of the cities of Kurume and Ogori will be the first to take part in these trials.



Four-person press conference held on Tuesday, October 1.

(From left) Mayor of Ogori, CEO of Hirotsu Bio Science Inc., Mayor of Kurume, Deputy Director of Industry and Commerce Section of Fukuoka Prefecture

These trials involved the cooperation of 120 officials from Kurume and Ogori, two cities that have supported this project from its initial development stage. A final check will be made to ensure there are no issues in the series of steps from collection of samples, to testing, to obtaining the results. Hirotsu Bio Science sees a day when N-NOSE is forms a part of the health checkups conducted in all sorts of different organizations, and is available to the general public. For this reason, verification is proceeding cautiously and with thoroughness.

(The following is a summary of the remarks by the mayors of both cities as well as the President & CEO of Hirotsu Bio Science.)

■ **Mayor of Kurume Tsutomu Okubo**

These days, cancer is a possibility for anyone, so early detection is vital, and there is now a focus on nematodes as a tool for this. Nematode cancer screening doesn't involve taking a day off work like current cancer tests. It can be taken as part of the urinalysis of a standard health checkup. In this way it is completely revolutionary. However, it may well be a bit too revolutionary, in that there may be some aspects that the medical system will find hard to accommodate. So we want to increase trust in communities by getting strong support from local authorities.

■ **Mayor of Ogori Ryoko Kaji**

I found the research for early cancer detection using nematodes fascinating right from the start. I included in my manifesto about how I want to get involved with projects to detect cancer early, and the citizens are expecting great things of it as well. I am fully behind Dr. Hirotsu in his ambition to implement nematode cancer screening. We in our offices will take part in these trials in the same way as an actual screening. I want to do what I can to identify any new issues, raise issues, and help solve them.

■ **HIROTSU BIO SCIENCE INC. CEO Takaaki Hirotsu**

A major issue with cancer is the difficulty of early detection, and the fact that the rate at which people are getting screened is not rising. Cancer screening ideally starts with a primary screening to identify those at a higher risk. For this, it's important to have a way of testing that is both inexpensive and highly accurate. But this is hard to achieve with existing tests, so we focused on the olfactory senses of organisms. And we have been able to achieve tests that offer both inexpensiveness and high accuracy that in vitro diagnostics cannot reach.