

**Diesse Diagnostica Senese Spa**

Sede Legale e Amm.ne: 20144 Milano – Via A. Solari, 19 - Italy

Tel.: +39 02 48.59.121 r.a. - Fax: +39 02 48.12.117

Capitale Sociale: euro 3.000.000

C.C.I.A.A. N°Rea 1045219 - Registro Impr. Milano: 05871140157

Partita IVA e Codice Fiscale N°05871140157

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PRESS RELEASE

COVID-19: Spallanzani Institute and Diesse Diagnostica Senese announce an agreement for the development of serological tests.

Rome, 18 March 2020 – The "Lazzaro Spallanzani" National Institute for Infectious Diseases in Rome and Diesse Diagnostica Senese announce that they have signed an agreement for the joint development of serological tests for diagnosis of COVID-19. The tests, currently under development, will be available from the end of April. In addition to complementing the diagnosis provided by molecular tests, especially in the case of asymptomatic subjects, they will make it possible to carry out epidemiological studies on the spread of coronavirus about which, unfortunately, there is little information available at present.

Diesse Diagnostica Senese, a leading company in the field of in vitro diagnostics, wishes to contribute to the fight against COVID-19 pandemic through introduction of these new diagnostic tests and thanks to the epidemiological surveillance activities of the Spallanzani Hospital, as it has already done recently for the Ebola project.

Maria Rosaria Capobianchi, director of the Virology laboratory of the "Lazzaro Spallanzani" National Institute for Infectious Diseases, commented on the agreement: "By virtue of its recognition as a scientific Institute for Research and Treatment, our institute has always been engaged in the development and validation of diagnostic tests for emerging infections, an activity typical of research to be shared, which should lead to a concrete and rapid benefit in clinical activities. In the current situation, the institute is a privileged interlocutor for companies engaged in the preparation of new molecular and serological tests related to the novel coronavirus, and provides scientific support in evaluating the performance of the new tests. The agreement with Diesse, a company with which the institute has already collaborated during the Ebola emergency, falls within this scope, and will allow us to have an additional tool for improving the diagnostic response to this emergency and to better understand the mechanisms of spread of the contagion".

Massimiliano Boggetti, Diesse CEO, says: "We are an Italian company that has forty years of experience in the creation and production of serological tests in the viral field. I am proud to combine our experience with that of the Spallanzani Institute, a world-class excellence in this area, and contribute to better diagnosis of COVID-19 patients."

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**INMI "Lazzaro Spallanzani"**

Established in 1936 as a facility for the treatment of infectious diseases, the INMI (National Institute for Infectious Diseases) is today the national reference point for treatment and research on infectious diseases. Over the years, the institute's expertise has expanded, adapting to the evolution of infectious diseases: from poliomyelitis to cholera, from hepatitis to HIV, from tuberculosis to antibiotic-resistant infections, up to hemorrhagic fevers and emerging viruses. The institute currently has the only Italian bio-safety level 4 laboratory in international circuits, and has five level 3 laboratories, as well as a biological bank for the centralised collection and storage of clinical samples relevant to infectious diseases.

Diesse Diagnostica Senese

Diesse Diagnostica Senese SpA is an Italian company with integrated and entirely in-house production of in vitro diagnostic systems. Its headquarters are in Siena. Since its foundation in 1980, the company has developed, produced and marketed innovative diagnostic systems primarily in the field of immunodiagnostics and automatic measurement of erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR). The company has a global presence in over 100 countries, three production sites and a research centre where the design and implementation of tests and new automated diagnostic detection tools meet Italian design and cutting-edge technology, making Diesse synonymous with "Diagnostic Evolution".

For more information, contact:

Salvatore Curiale – INMI Spallanzani
Tel.+39 3384860207 – salvatore.curiale@inmi.it

Tatiana Zoppi – Diesse Diagnostica Senese
Tel.+39 348 3337827 – tatianazoppi@diesse.it