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Hospital, Genomas working on DNA diagnostic systems

By: Scott Whipple , Herald Staff

NEW BRITAIN - Most people respond differently to the same medications. But, what if people knew in advance which medicines were likely to be most effective, based on genetics and our personal DNA profile?

That's the idea behind ongoing research between The Hospital of Central Connecticut and Hartford-based Genomas Inc. Last week, during the hospital's annual meeting, Genomas President Gualberto Ruano, MD discussed "The Practice of DNA-Guided Medicine: Personalized Health at The Hospital of Central Connecticut."

The hospital and Genomas are currently working together to develop new DNA diagnostic systems to help select the right drugs and treatments for people with diabetes. This includes management of some of the related - and often extremely debilitating - conditions associated with advanced diabetes. Cholesterol management and weight loss have also been targeted for development of new treatments.

"This new partnership is a concrete example of our commitment to bring the most advanced and sophisticated medical care to the people of Central Connecticut through innovative and groundbreaking research," said Laurence Tanner, president and CEO of The Hospital of Central Connecticut. "It's also an affirmation of our long-standing commitment to offer world-class care to people with diabetes."

Genomas Inc. and the hospital are developing DNA -guided systems for managing diabetes. These systems predict the risk of developing liver injury, weight gain, and other adverse metabolic reactions to drugs used to treat diabetes.

"The partnership with the hospital allows us to bring DNA-guided medicine to patients with diabetes," said Ruano. "It's essential work, because the medications for which we are developing personalized prescription systems are being used more often, and at higher doses."

"The partnership also furthers the hospital's commitment to provide the gold standard of care to people with diabetes," said Dr. Steven D. Hanks, the hospital's senior vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer.

A decade ago, the hospital became affiliated with the Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston, a world leader in diabetes treatment, research and education. As a Joslin affiliate, the hospital strives to meet rigorous standards of care for people with diabetes, and to help them develop skills to manage their blood sugar, avoid complications and maintain better health throughout their lifetime.

Hanks says the Genomas partnership was "the logical next step."

Located on the campus of Hartford Hospital, Genomas is a biomedical company advancing personalized health with revolutionary PhyzioType medical management systems to treat metabolic conditions. This includes metabolic conditions induced by drugs and obesity, in cardiovascular and psychiatric medicine and now diabetes management.