Welcome to the first GUIDE.MRD Newsletter, which features some of the key achievements of the project over the first 18 months.

GUIDE.MRD is a European IHI consortium working to improve cancer care for lung, pancreatic, and colorectal cancers through liquid biopsy. By developing and validating ctDNA tests, the project aims to guide treatment decisions after surgery, enhancing patient outcomes and shaping the future of cancer care

In this first edition, you will be able to:

Happy reading and best regards,

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Public Consultation
Help Shape the Future of Cancer Care

We are launching a public consultation to refine the ideal healthcare pathway for integrating **ctDNA testing** for **MRD detection** in cancer care.

Running from **October 28 to November 18, 2024,** this consultation welcomes feedback from healthcare providers, patients, caregivers, researchers, and industry professionals.

Your insights will help ensure the pathway meets the needs of diverse healthcare systems and cancer types, ultimately improving patient outcomes.

How to Participate

1. **Click to review the draft healthcare pathway**
2. Complete a short survey (15 minutes). **Click here** and share your input on how ctDNA testing can enhance cancer care.

Curious to find out more? Check out this material.

Join us in shaping the future of cancer treatment!

Patient-centric research: the Role of the Patient Advisory Board in GUIDE.MRD

Meaningful involvement of patients is at the heart of the GUIDE.MRD mission. To ensure patient voices are heard and integrated into all aspects of our work, we have established the Patient Advisory Board (PAB). This group plays a critical role in driving patient engagement, providing invaluable insights, and helping shape our project's outcomes for the greatest benefit to patients, their communities, and society.

PAB has 11 members from across Europe, including patient representatives, caregivers, and individuals living with lung, colorectal, and pancreatic cancer. Learn more about them here.

Since the project's inception, the PAB has been highly active in key areas, particularly in reviewing and refining clinical trial protocols to make them more patient-centered.

They have also helped create patient-friendly descriptions of the studies, which you can explore here, now also available in multiple languages.

Beyond this, the PAB has contributed to the co-creation of essential materials, such as data usage principles, lay summaries of the project, website content, patient information forms, and consent forms for the studies.

The PAB ensures that patients are active partners in shaping the future of cancer care.

Project Update: Advancing ctDNA-based MRD Detection

In the first year of the project, we conducted a comprehensive review of current and emerging technologies for ctDNA-based MRD detection, creating an up-to-date list of both commercially available and in-development assays. We identified the most important criteria for selecting ctDNA assays, which will guide the next steps in analytical benchmarking within this work.

We also completed a detailed review of ctDNA reference materials, both commercial and contrived. This led to the development of a framework for creating new reference materials that can support the rapid advancement of ctDNA technologies and be used across various MRD assays.

Finally, the project has begun developing a custom ctDNA reference material specifically designed to mimic the low ctDNA levels in MRD cases. This quality-controlled material will be crucial for benchmarking a wide range of MRD assays in the next phases of the project.

Advancing Clinical Trials and Stakeholder Engagement

The clinical protocols for our three observational studies on colorectal cancer (CRC), pancreatic cancer (PDAC), and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) have been officially registered on ClinicalTrials.gov, with recruitment now ongoing in all participating countries.

Standardized procedures for collecting plasma, tumor biopsies, and PBMCs have been implemented across all sites, supported by a rigorous quality control program to ensure high-quality samples.

Plasma samples, tumor biopsies, and PBMCs are being collected on schedule across various partner countries for each cancer type. These collections mark key

milestones in the progression of the studies and are proceeding as planned. In close collaboration with the Patient Advisory Board (PAB), we've incorporated feedback to enhance study protocols and patient information materials.

This ongoing engagement ensures that patient needs are central to our efforts, while regular meetings between teams and patient representatives continue to strengthen stakeholder involvement and the overall impact of the studies. Learn more about the GUIDE.MRD PAB members here.

We invite you to **connect with us at upcoming conferences!**

Join us to learn more about our work, share insights, and collaborate on advancing cancer care. Here's where you can find us:

European Liquid Biopsy Society joint session on regulatory & reimbursement *(Nov 27, 2024)*

About GUIDE.MRD

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Stay Connected!

Visit our website for more details and follow us on LinkedIn to stay updated on our progress and events.

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