MedGenome Offers Genomics-based Clinical Reporting in MENA Region

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MedGenome, a genomics-based diagnostics and research firm, has started offering advanced genetic tests in oncology, neurology, ophthalmology, and cardiology in the MENA region. The focus is in lieu of the fact that genomics has come to play a vital role in healthcare in the last few years, which is rapidly adopted among the healthcare practitioners in the MENA region. Studies indicate that congenital and genetic disorders are prevalent in the region, driven by the high rates of consanguinity (ranging from 25-60%), high maternal and paternal age, homogenous population, and selective and environmental factors favouring the persistence of certain genetic traits. At present, congenital malformations are a leading cause of infant mortality in the region. Breast cancer and colon cancer, both found to have underlying genetic associations, are very prevalent in the region with estimates suggesting breast cancer accounting for approximately 42% of all cancers in the region.

(Logo: http://photos.prnewswire.com/prnh/20160112/784044)

Advanced sequencing techniques like NGS has enabled the identification and analysis of genetic variants in an individual, which yield important information about the mutations in his/her genome, which facilitate accurate diagnosis of existing disease, effective management, and development of effective and targeted treatment strategies. Furthermore, Whole-Genome Sequencing (WGS) and Whole-Exome Sequencing (WES) are powerful tools, which have enabled identification and characterization of new diseases and have expanded the phenotypes of known syndromes. Some of the large-scale initiatives in the region such as Saudi Human Genome and Qatar Human Genome projects are initiatives that are aimed at utilizing genomics as a tool to better healthcare outcomes for the population.

Genetics firms such as MedGenome offering premarital carrier screening, family oriented approach to prevention, neonatal screening programmes, antenatal screening for chromosome abnormalities and congenital malformations, pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, genetic biomarker testing especially in cancers and genetic counselling are working with clinicians and diagnostics labs in the region to offer genomics-based diagnostics at affordable prices and in acceptable turnaround time.

MedGenome has a high-throughput state-of-the-art next-generation sequencing laboratory with industry certifications and equipped with latest Illumina technology platforms. The firm is now actively seeking additional partners in the region.

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