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Seroxo commences i4i-Connect breast cancer clinical project funded by NIHR

- **LIT™: 10-minute point-of-care (POC) test revolutionising detection of cancer spread**
- **Oxford-based diagnostic start-up starts new clinical project in breast cancer**

LONDON, UK — Oxford-based Seroxo Ltd, the clinical-stage *in vitro* diagnostics company developing the world's first scalable point-of-care (POC) test for cancer metastasis, is pleased to announce that, together with its collaborators, it has commenced a new clinical project to assess its proprietary test in breast cancer. The project will enable the team to assess the degree to which the Leukocyte ImmunoTest™ or LIT™, Seroxo's patented 10-minute bedside test, can detect a patient's progression to stage 4 disease, signifying the cancer has spread to other organs. This has already been demonstrated for prostate cancer. Success in this trial could lead to regular use of LIT for monitoring disease progression and recurrence in breast cancer.

The 12-month project is being funded by the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) under its Invention for Innovation (i4i) Connect programme and will be conducted at the Oxford University Hospitals' Churchill site with Prof P.G. Roy, Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon. The Oxford Academic Health Science Network (Oxford AHSN) will be leading on the patient and public involvement work. Both early-stage and late-stage breast cancer patients will be invited to participate in the clinical trial.

A test which can also be used to detect cancer recurrence as well as monitor the body's response to dangerous conditions like COVID-19 and sepsis, LIT is a portable finger-prick blood test that rapidly measures the functional activity of white blood cells. Previous clinical studies have shown that the specific activity measured by LIT increases as disease severity increases; it is this discovery that enables the LIT to detect when a cancer patient's disease has progressed to the metastatic stage.

Commenting on the new grant-funded study, Prof Roy remarked, "This is an exciting development and if the test proves its worth, this would be a game changer for breast cancer patients and healthcare systems globally".

Oxford AHSN Director of Community Involvement & Workforce Innovation, Dr Siân Rees said, "We are delighted to be working with Seroxo, to ensure that patient and public input is core to this work".

Seroxo CEO Dr David Sarphe said: "We are thrilled to be working with NIHR, Oxford AHSN, and Prof Roy on what promises to be a landmark study in cancer diagnosis. If we can demonstrate the ability to differentiate early-stage from late-stage breast cancer using a simple 10-minute blood test, the clinical impact could be enormous. Once launched, this could save thousands of lives in the UK each year and save the NHS hundreds of thousands of pounds by detecting metastatic disease earlier."

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Notes to Editor

About Seroxo Ltd – Seroxo (www.seroxo.com) is a clinical-stage IVD company based in Oxford. The Company is focused on the development and commercialization of an innovative blood test for rapid detection and monitoring of conditions such as COVID-19, sepsis and cancer.

About NIHR i4i – The NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) Programme is a translational research funding scheme aimed at medical devices, in vitro diagnostic devices and digital health technologies addressing an existing or emerging health or social care need.

The mission of the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) is to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research. We do this by:

- Funding high quality, timely research that benefits the NHS, public health and social care;
- Investing in world-class expertise, facilities and a skilled delivery workforce to translate discoveries into improved treatments and services;
- Partnering with patients, service users, carers and communities, improving the relevance, quality and impact of our research;
- Attracting, training and supporting the best researchers to tackle complex health and social care challenges;
- Collaborating with other public funders, charities and industry to help shape a cohesive and globally competitive research system;
- Funding applied global health research and training to meet the needs of the poorest people in low and middle income countries.
- NIHR is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care. Its work in low and middle income countries is principally funded through UK Aid from the UK government.

About Oxford AHSN – The Oxford Academic Health Science Network (www.oxfordahsn.org) gets clinical innovation into everyday practice to improve health and generate economic growth through partnerships between the NHS, industry and research.

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