



# TECHNOLOGICAL OPPORTUNITIES AND INNOVATIONS TO IMPROVE EPILEPSY DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT – THE ROLE OF SMES

## **European Forum on Epilepsy Research**

Dublin 2013



MILTA

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#### IntegraGen Overview

IntegraGen has built a wealth of in-house expertise in the analysis of genomic data and biomarker identification, which supports all the Company's operations, spanning molecular diagnostic development and genomic services



# IntegraGen,

# A SME IMPLICATED IN GENETICS OF EPILEPSY:

## A SUPPORT OF RESEARCH FOR ACADEMIC LABORATORIES



Dublin, May 26<sup>th</sup> 2013

## **Epilepsies and Genetics**

3 underlying causes: Genetic, Structural-metabolic, Unknown cause

Genetic epilepsies represent 40 % of epilepsies

Most genetic epilepsies have a complex inheritance

Rare forms with autosomal dominant/recessive transmission



# **Major Aims: identification of new molecules**



# The majority of epilepsy genes encode ion channels



# But not only channelopathies...



### [Secreted protein]

Kalachicov et al, Nat Genet (2002)



## **And More Recently**

Nat Genet. 2013 Apr 26;45(5):552-5. doi: 10.1038/ng.2601. Epub 2013 Mar 31.

#### Mutations of DEPDC5 cause autosomal dominant focal epilepsies.

Ishida S, Picard F, Rudolf G, Noé E, Achaz G, Thomas P, Genton P, Mundwiller E, Wolff M, Marescaux C, Miles R, Baulac M, Hirsch E, Leguern E, Baulac S.

 Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM) U975, Institut du Cerveau et de la Moelle Epinière (ICM), Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris, France.
Université Pierre et Marie Curie-Paris 6 (UPMC), Paris, France.

DEPDC5 does note encode a channel subunit Highly conserved gene, Broadly expressed, No known partners

New pathway involved in epileptogenesis

**NEW PHARMACOLOGICAL TARGETS** 



## We are at the beginning of the story



INTEGRASEN

# A SME as a service provider

#### By proposing access to cutting edge technologies

And tools helping the interpretation

We are close to the 1k€ genome but still at the 1M€ interpreteome

- Delivering high quality data, on time
- In a collaborative mode more than in a furnisher/customer relationship

#### Can we do more ?

# IntegraGen,

# A PARTNERSHIP FOR MOLECULAR DIAGNOSIS ?



- Is there some IP, even co-owned with the partners?
- Is there a niche market to explore ?
- Is our expertise an added value for the project ?
- Is it granted, even partially ?



# **MOLECULAR DIAGNOSIS IN SEVERE EPILEPSY (1)**

#### **EPILEPTIC ENCEPHALOPATHIES (EE):**

- Pharmacoresistant epilepsy
- Cognitive delay, autism
- Neurological signs

#### **GENETICALLY DETERMINED**

**MUTATIONS SHALL BE FOUND** 

**GENETIC COUNSELLING PART OF THE PATIENT MANAGEMENT** 



# **MOLECULAR DIAGNOSIS IN SEVERE EPILEPSY (2)**

#### **EE : MORE THAN 100 GENES INVOLVED**

**Development of high throuput sequencing methods needed:** 

- Targeted genes-capture / sequencing (Kit / ready-to-use assays)
- Whole Exome Sequencing
- Whole Genome Sequencing

Collaboration & partnership between SMEs and advanced medical experts are crucial to set up the best strategy



# Importance for a SME to maintain cohesion in the development

#### **Epilepsy and Autism are frequently associated**

#### Prevalence of Epilepsy in Autism : 5 to 40 %

 0,5 to 1% in the general population, varies upon autism subtype, age, mental retardation, associated neurologic disorder...

#### Prevalence of Autism in Epilepsy : 5 to 30 %

1/150 in the general population

We probably could take adantage from a common knowledge

Canitano, 2007, Eur Child Adol Psy Berg et al, 2011, J Chil Neurol



# **Conclusion (1)**

- New genomics approaches, and sequencing capabilities are key in disease understanding but also in diagnosis and patient management
- SMEs like IntegraGen act as a support for research but also in tools and kits development for clearly identified market
- 30 % of commune epilepsies are pharmacoresistant. Better knwoledge of genes and pathways involved shall lead to new targets indentification and personalised treatments.



# **Conclusion (2)**

There is many other areas where implication of SMEs is as important for the diagnosis and patient management in epilepsy

- Seizure detection devices
- Softwares and smartphone applications (patient management)
- Microelectrodes ...

Thanks to Pr Eric Le Guern and Dr Stéphanie Baulac

# Thank you for your attention

