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'Omics'-based predictive systems from the lab to the ward: genomic markers and models help clinicians to predict Oral cavity Cancer reoccurrence. The EU-funded project OraMod, led by University of Parma.

Translating innovative diagnostic technologies and predictive models from the most advanced European research laboratories into the hospital: this is the addressed by the OraMod project, co-funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme. The project continues the research conducted by previous FP7-EC-funded NeoMark project, which produces a set of prognostic bio-markers and a genetic bio-signature significant for reoccurrence of oral cavity tumors, a disease more and more frequent and with a very high mortality rate.

By adopting the results of the most advanced research in oncology and of technology developments in the fields of genomics, image diagnostics and biostatistical predictive models, the project, led by Prof. Enrico Sesenna and Prof. Tito Poli from the Department of Biomedical Biotechnological and Translational Sciences at Parma University, will provide to clinicians a technology platform allowing the early identification of patients at highest risk of bad prognosis. The project will analyze tens of thousands of information related to clinical, radiology and genomic data for each individual patient and will be able to detect the patients at high risk for disease reoccurrence, for whom personalized and specific therapeutic approaches will be adopted. An innovative in vitro diagnostic device based on a personalized "lab-on-chip" will allow fast and low-cost identification of genomic predictive markers.

The project receives a funding of more than 3 million euro throughout three years, engages 8 partners from 5 European Countries, among which three university hospitals (VU medical center Amsterdam, Heinrich-Heine University Clinic Dusseldorf and the University of Parma with the University Hospital), two primary European research institutions (the Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics IGD Darmstad Germany and the VTT Technology Center of Finland) and three technology providers (Velti in Greece, OneToNet and STmicroelectronics in Italy).