

Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation Hong Kong's First Breast Cancer Recurrence Score® Gene Assay - Oncotype DX® Financial Assistance Programme

(17 March 2010 – Hong Kong) Non-government, non-profit charitable organisation Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation (HKBCF) announced Hong Kong's first Breast Cancer Recurrence Score® Gene Assay – Oncotype DX® Financial Assistance Programme. The goal of the programme is to provide financial assistance to breast cancer patients who will be taking the test, so as to ease their financial burdens from expensive medical treatments.

Dr Polly Cheung, Founder of HKBCF said, "The use of adjuvant chemotherapy in the treatment of early stage node negative breast cancer has increased greatly in the last decades and has been shown to reduce recurrence, by killing microscopic cancer cells in the body after surgery. However, not all patients have residual disease that require treatment. Clinicians and scientists have been looking for ways to select those who will benefit from chemotherapy and spare the others from side effects of chemotherapy.

Oncotype DX test is a molecular test which measures the expression of multiple genes related to breast cancer recurrence in early stage ER+ tumours. It gives a recurrence score that predicts the benefit from chemotherapy and quantify the estimated distant recurrence rate of individual cancer. It is the first gene expression test that is validated and recommended for clinical use by ASCO (American Society of Clinical Oncology) and NCCN (National Comprehensive Cancer Network) of USA. It helps doctors to design individualised treatment for their patients."

HKBCF keeps abreast of new treatment development for the benefit of patients. Oncotype DX® is a diagnostic test that helps identify which women with early-stage and estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer are more likely to benefit from chemotherapy other than their hormonal treatment. The test helps breast cancer doctor and patient to develop a more tailored treatment plan.

Registered specialist in clinical oncology Dr Peter Choi shared two cases of his patients whose treatment plans were changed after taking into account the information provided by Oncotype DX® test. As a result, one omitted chemotherapy and the other added on chemotherapy.

Mrs Joanna Choi, Chairman of HKBCF said, “The Breast Cancer Recurrence Score® Gene Assay – Oncotype DX® Financial Assistance Programme will assist each qualified applicant with a HK\$10,000 subsidy for the test expense from 1 March 2010 to 31 December 2010. The subsidy will cover 30% of the test expense.”

The programme is currently open for application and will benefit 60 qualified patients. Interested applicants can fill in a form with the necessary documents and mail them to Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation, 22/F, Jupiter Tower, 9 Jupiter Street, North Point, Hong Kong. Qualified applicants will be notified by mail and the subsidy will also be reimbursed by cheque payment. Application forms can be downloaded from the Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation website www.hkbcf.org or can be obtained at the office.

For more information about the HKBCF, to support, or donate, please visit www.hkbcf.org or call us at 2525 6033. For more information on Oncotype DX® please go to www.OncotypeDX.com.

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About Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation

Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation (HKBCF) was inaugurated in March 2005 and is a charitable organisation dedicated to raise public awareness of breast cancer and the importance of early detection, provide support for breast cancer patients on their road to recovery and support research and advocate for better breast cancer care in Hong Kong. The formation of HKBCF is based on the vision in the need for total care of breast cancer patients, from medical treatment to paramedical and psychosocial care, so that they can recover fully, resume their role in society and their family, and live their life to the full. For more information, please go to www.hkbcf.org.