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[International Cooperation][Medicine] NCKU Partners with BNL and Aurora to Develop Leading Cancer Diagnostic Instrument

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NCKU News (2011/04/22) A Taiwanese research team, led by Prof. Ming-Shing YOUNG of Department of Electrical Engineering at National Cheng Kung University (NCKU), has partnered with Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), one of the world's premier scientific research institutions, and Aurora Imaging Technology Incorporation (Aurora), a renowned manufacturer of breast MRI systems.

Brookhaven National Laboratory, located in Long Island, New York, has developed some of the first agents for positron emission tomography (PET) scanning that are used in clinical PET scan done in hospitals worldwide. Aurora Imaging Technology Incorporation, based in North Andover, Massachusetts, has established a research and development center at Southern Taiwan Science Park, the only one outside the United States.

Facilitated by former NCKU President and Academician Michael Ming-Chiao LAI, the three-party cooperation is the result of a 2009 memorandum of understanding signed between NCKU, BNL and Aurora, which allows faculty members to participate in exchange programs in areas of mutual interests and seek opportunities to work collaboratively in the detection, diagnosis, biopsy and treatment of breast cancer.

Under the terms of the agreement, NCKU and BNL aims to jointly develop a new-generation positron emission tomography (PET) technology and integrate it with the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) developed by Aurora to contribute to an advanced cancer diagnostic and treatment instrument.

According to Distinguished Prof. Ching-Hsing LUO of NCKU Department of Electric Engineering, a member of the project, the new-generation PET scanner has advantages such as detecting early breast cancer with size as small as 0.2cm and releasing low level of radiation.

"In the next five years, with the integrated PET/MRI instrument which can enhance the sensitivity of early breast cancer detection, we expect to find technological transfer partners and commercialize the instrument for medical and health purposes in Taiwan, Asia, and even the world," said Prof. Ming-Shing YOUNG, the project coordinator.

Reference:
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