

Media Release – For Immediate Distribution

InSphero offers free safety testing in 3D InSight™ Human Liver Models for exploratory COVID-19 treatments

Organizations working on new medications and vaccine formulations may request free safety testing using preclinical liver models that identify potential for toxic effects in humans.

Schlieren, Switzerland – March 24, 2019 InSphero AG, the pioneer of 3D cell-based assay technology, today announced that it will offer free safety testing for exploratory COVID-19 medications and coronavirus (SARS-COV-2) vaccine formulations. These COVID-19 tests will be based on InSphero’s 3D InSight™ Human Liver models and available to any organization (academic, governmental or industrial) that wants to conduct risk assessments on their treatments in development.

“The COVID-19 pandemic is uncharted territory for us all,” says InSphero CEO and co-founder Jan Lichtenberg, PhD. “New types of antiviral compounds and vaccines are being developed in record time to reduce time to market due to the urgent need for COVID-19 treatments and immunity against the SARS-COV-2 virus. As of today, our drug testing facilities are fully operational and we decided we can best support the global response to this pandemic by providing free access to our 3D *in vitro* toxicology platform, so researchers can quickly assess the safety of new compounds in the principle organ of drug metabolism: the liver.”

New therapeutic modalities, such as RNA based vaccines are not always suitable for classical safety testing, which typically includes translational testing using animal models. InSphero’s 3D *in vitro* human liver models can mimic liver function for up to four weeks in the lab. These co-culture models, comprised of primary human hepatocytes and non-parenchymal cells (which contain liver-resident cells with important immune functions), represent the smallest functional unit of a human liver and are highly predictive for identifying safety hazards. Our testing technology is fast (typically, a three week turnaround) to ensure drug development programs move forward swiftly and offer a new, efficient way to test novel modalities as well as classical compounds.

“This is a global program and InSphero will absorb the cost for testing as our contribution to the fight against the disease,” adds InSphero CBO Frank Junker, PhD. “We will respond to requests on a first-come-first-serve basis and will guarantee that a minimum of three compounds will be tested per program, so that we can serve a wide range of organizations working on different medicines that will potentially help stem this pandemic.”

In early March, InSphero implemented a business continuity plan to address the public health challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes extensive home office use by our staff as well as measures to ensure smooth and reliable operations.

For more information about accessing 3D InSight™ Human Liver Microtissues for COVID-19 testing visit <https://insphero.com/covid-19-safety-testing/>

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About InSphero

InSphero is the pioneer of industrial-grade, 3D-cell-based assay solutions and scaffold-free 3D organ-on-a-chip technology. Through partnerships, InSphero supports pharmaceutical and biotechnology researchers in successful decision-making by accurately rebuilding the human physiology *in vitro*. Its robust and precisely engineered suite of 3D InSight™ human tissue platforms are used by major pharmaceutical companies worldwide to increase efficiency in drug discovery and safety testing. The company specializes in liver toxicology, metabolic diseases (e.g., T1 & T2 diabetes and NAFLD & NASH liver disease), and oncology (with a focus on immuno-oncology and PDX models). The scalable Akura™ technology underlying the company's 3D InSight™ Discovery and Safety Platforms includes 96 and 384-well plate formats and the Akura™ Flow organ-on-a-chip system to drive efficient innovation throughout all phases of drug development.

Learn more at www.insphero.com and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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