

synopsis

Biomedical Technology Newsletter

Spring 2009

SANYO Supports Dr. Gallo and the Institute of Human Virology in their efforts to cure AIDS and HIV

University of Maryland— Institute of Human Virology

Ten years ago, Dr. Robert Gallo and two other scientists founded IHV (the Institute of Human Virology) in Baltimore, Maryland, a facility dedicated to the study and treatment of HIV/AIDS. The Institute of Human Virology is the first of its kind in the United States and perhaps the world – to combine the disciplines of basic research, epidemiology and clinical research in a concerted effort to speed up the discovery of diagnostics and therapeutics for a wide variety of chronic and deadly viral and immune disorders – most notably the HIV virus that causes AIDS. Since its founding, SANYO has been a leading sponsor of the facility with President Toshiaki Inoue serving on the board of advisors with other world-renowned notables in the medical community such as Katherine Kennedy Townsend, Maryland's first female Lt. Governor, and Sue

Bailey, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. The University of Maryland facility has over 50 SANYO MDF 73VC freezers, 60 incubators, and a wide range of other products from multiple -152° freezers, MPR-1410's, MPR-537D's, and MDF-U720's. They like the idea that SANYO manufacturers most of their own parts so they can stand behind them with confidence and technical assistance. They also believe that SANYO biomedical products have proven longevity and superior service, along with flexibility in features that quickly benefit the end-user, such as creating more interior space with a smaller footprint in the freezer product lines. Dependability is an extremely important measure in their choice of equipment, as it is necessary to provide reassurance that sample storages will be properly maintained. The AIDS virus they produce has also proven to grow better in SANYO incubators due to the fast recovery after door closing and true 98% humidity rate which keeps the cells healthier. It usually takes 2 - 3 weeks to grow these viable cells, but with SANYO's stable heat and relative humidity environment, this process is much faster.

Dr. Gallo is considered among the best scientists in the United States and his partnership with SANYO biomedical is unmatched. He was the first to discover the retrovirus in humans, which causes a rare form of leukemia, but is best known for his work in identifying HIV as the virus that causes AIDS. Dr. Gallo has been honored with more than 80 medical awards and 30 honorary degrees. However, when asked about what is his most important achievement, the discovery of the AIDS virus is not in his list. "Emotionally, the most important thing I got satisfaction from was the discovery of the first human retrovirus, the leukemia virus HTLV-1, because it was one of the first viruses shown to be the cause of cancer," he explains. Dr. Gallo's sister died of leukemia when she was a child, and he says he embarked on a lifetime of research after six painful months as a medical doctor, treating children with leukemia. SANYO is extremely supportive of his lifelong battle to find treatments and causes that will affect so many people around the world.



Dr. Robert Gallo of IHV

Profectus Biosciences, Inc.

In 2005, Dr. Gallo co-founded Profectus BioSciences, Inc., which develops and commercializes technologies to reduce the morbidity and mortality caused by human viral diseases, including the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The founders recognized that the university setting was fertile for basic research, it lacked the infrastructure and skill set to perform translational research to serve as a facility to develop and commercialize select technologies developed at the IHV.



Dr. Robert Gallo (right) and Kathleen Kennedy Townsend (center) of IHV along with Toshiaki Inoue, President of SANYO Commercial Solutions

Profectus was a startup biotech facility that needed to ensure its viruses would be dependable and consistent. Gallo and Jeff Mesulam, VP Chief Operating Officer chose SANYO in order to bring the high quality and reliable products that he enjoyed in his labs to his corporation. Profectus currently carries the MDF-U73VC, MDF-U52VC, MDF-C2156VANC, MPR-730, MDF-537, MPR-720, MPR-1410, MCO-36AIC(UV), MCO-40AIC, HF-5015, SRR-23FDMED, and MIR-153 since Gallo and Mesulam responded so well to the dependability and immediate service response. Being a new GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) facility, they especially liked the validation services offered. They appreciated that SANYO had a lot of experience with the tough FDA regulations placed on pharmaceutical companies and that SANYO could provide proper documentation to ensure perfect testing conditions were met and maintained.



Dr. Alonso Heredia examining HIV infected cells

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