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Tempus Announces Companion Diagnostic Collaboration with Kartos Therapeutics

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Tempus, a leader in artificial intelligence and precision medicine, today announced a new collaboration to develop a companion diagnostic (CDx) test with Kartos Therapeutics, a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company, in support of its ongoing [Phase II study of navtemadlin \(KRT-232\)](#). Tempus' CDx test, which will be developed on Tempus' xT platform, will be used to identify patients with *TP53* wild-type (*TP53WT*) [Merkel cell carcinoma \(MCC\)](#) who may be eligible for treatment with navtemadlin. Navtemadlin is a potent, selective, orally available MDM2 inhibitor that overcomes MDM2 dysregulation by restoring p53 activity and inducing apoptosis of *TP53WT* tumor cells.

Although rare, MCC is one of the most aggressive and lethal types of skin cancer, associated with a high risk of recurrence and metastasis, making it very difficult to treat. While anti-PD-1/L-1 antibodies have become standard of care for advanced or metastatic MCC, there remains an urgent need for effective therapies for patients who fail to respond, relapse or are intolerant to immunotherapy. Kartos is collaborating with Tempus to use the xT assay, a 648-gene panel, to identify patients with advanced or metastatic MCC who have retained functional (wild-type) *TP53* and who have failed or are intolerant to anti-PD-1/L-1 immunotherapy.

"We are pleased to be collaborating with the Tempus team to progress our goal of developing innovative therapies that meaningfully improve the lives of patients," said Jesse McGreivy, MD, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Medical Officer at Kartos Therapeutics. "This partnership will allow us to develop a test to identify cancer patients who may benefit from treatment with navtemadlin; a therapy which offers a unique mechanism to restore the function of p53, one of the most critical tumor suppressor proteins, resulting in apoptosis of malignant cells in *TP53WT* MCC and other tumor types."

"Our proprietary platform provides a comprehensive suite of solutions for novel drug development programs while also giving physicians the data needed to make informed treatment decisions for their patients," said Michael Yaszko, Executive Vice President at Tempus. "We look forward to supporting Kartos' diagnostic efforts in identifying cancer patients who could benefit from a more personalized approach to their treatment using a widely-available assay and clinician-friendly tools."

About Tempus

Tempus is a technology company advancing precision medicine through the practical application of artificial intelligence in healthcare. With one of the world's largest libraries of clinical and molecular data, and an operating system to make that data accessible and useful, Tempus enables physicians to make near real-time, data-driven decisions to deliver personalized patient care and in parallel facilitates discovery, development and delivery of optimal therapeutics. The goal is for each patient to benefit from the treatment of others who came before by providing physicians with tools that learn as the company gathers more data. For more information, visit tempus.com.

About Kartos Therapeutics

Kartos Therapeutics is a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company with a potential best-in-class MDM2 inhibitor, navtemadlin, that is in clinical development across a variety of *TP53* wild-type hematological malignancies and solid tumors. To learn more, visit www.kartosthera.com and connect with us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).