

ZF-screens



Christiaan Henkel
Leidse gracht
15 January 2013

"Science, business and innovation;
it's a delicate balance"

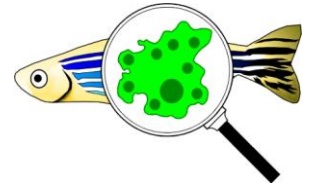
Dutch Life Sciences conference

Leiden

24 November 2016

Ron Dirks

CEO, ZF-screens BV



ZF-screens



- **Who are we?**
- What do we do?
- Where did the money come from?
- What do we want to do next?
- Where will the money come from?

ZF-screens

Dutch SME at Leiden Bioscience Park

- High-throughput drug and toxicity screens in zebrafish larvae
- Next generation sequencing (genomes, transcriptomes)



Chris Henkel
Leiden Univ



Herman Spaik
Leiden Univ

ZF-screens



- Who are we?
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ZF-screens

ZF-screens daughter 1

NewCatch

Developing sustainable fish reproduction

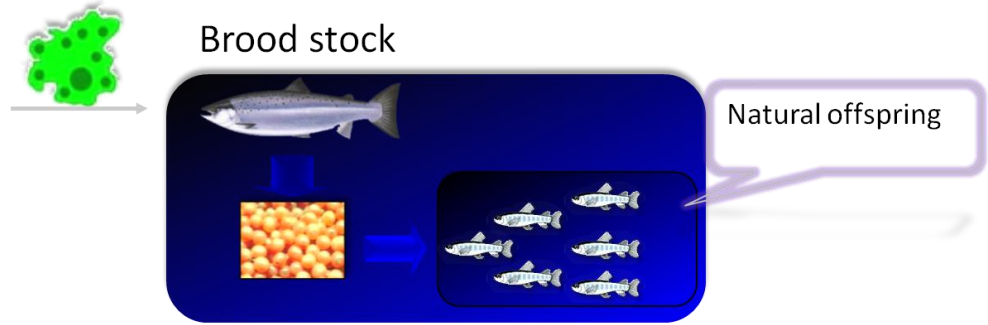


- Founded in 2007 (Herman Spaik and Guido van den Thillart)
- Artificial maturation of broodstock for aquaculture
(European eel, pike perch, common sole, salmon)
- Main product: ZF-Implant™



NewCatch activity

ZF-implant™



- Artificial pituitary gland
- Living slow-release system
- Inject into parent fish (brood stock)
- Very few injections compared with weekly hormone injections





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EP1686179 (A1)

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INPADOC patent family

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Bibliographic data: EP1686179 (A1) — 2006-08-02

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Means and methods for improving the development and maturation of eggs and/or sperm in fish using hormones produced by transplanted cells

Page bookmark [EP1686179 \(A1\) - Means and methods for improving the development and maturation of eggs and/or sperm in fish using hormones produced by transplanted cells](#)

Inventor(s): SPAINK HERMAN PIETER [NL]; VAN DEN THILLART GUIDO EVERAD [NL]; SCHNABEL PERAZA DENHI [NL] ±

Applicant(s): UNIV LEIDEN [NL] ±

Classification: - international: [A01K61/00](#); [C12N15/85](#)

- cooperative: [A01K67/0271](#); [A01K2207/12](#); [A01K2227/40](#); [A01K2267/02](#)

Application number: EP20050075204 20050126 [i Global Dossier](#)

Priority number(s): EP20050075204 20050126

Also published as: [📄 ES2348923 \(T3\)](#) [📄 CN101180399 \(A\)](#)

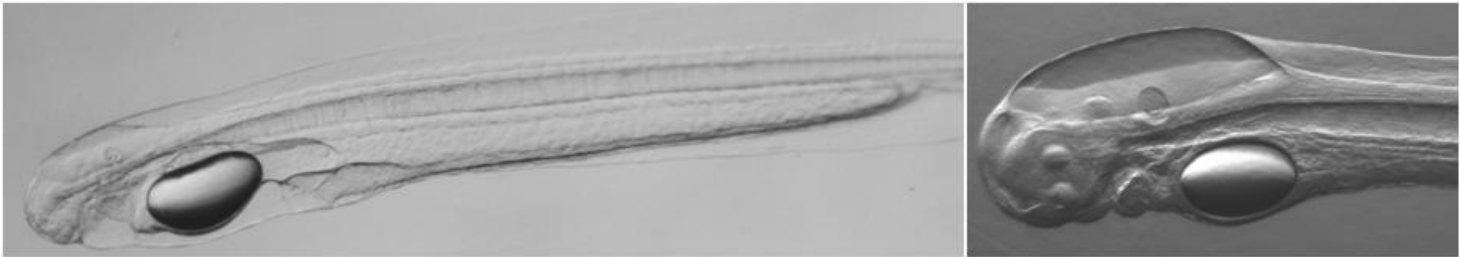
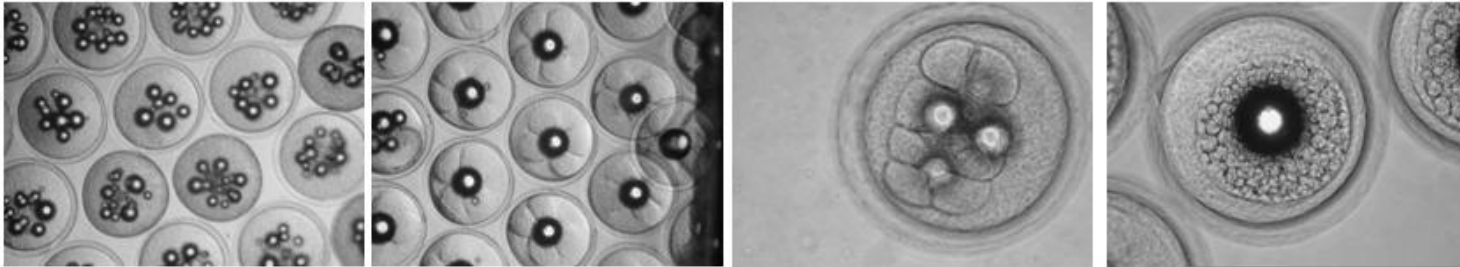


Facilities for reproduction trials custom-adapted sea container





Eel larva development



→ food ???

ZF-screens

ZF-screens daughter 2

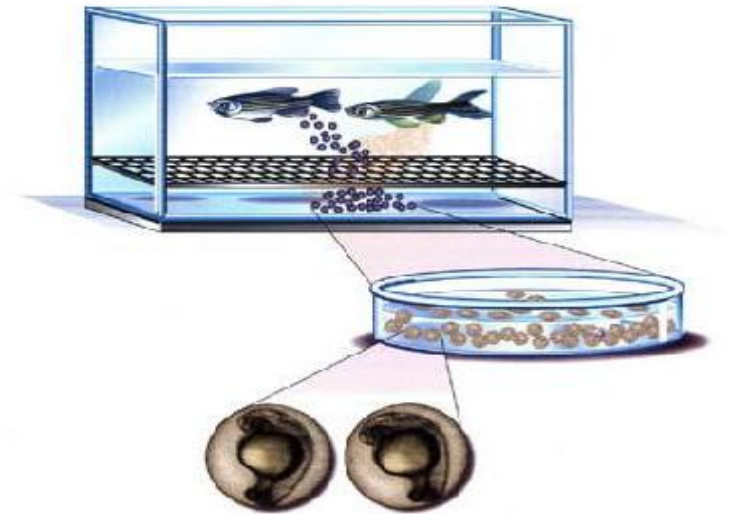
ZF-pharma
ZF-screens company



- Founded in 2008
- High-throughput drug screening in zebrafish larvae
- Toxicity assays in zebrafish larvae



The zebrafish as a model organism



- Easy to culture
- Transparent larvae ideal for imaging
- Many transgenics for fluorescence imaging
- Excellent genomics tools available



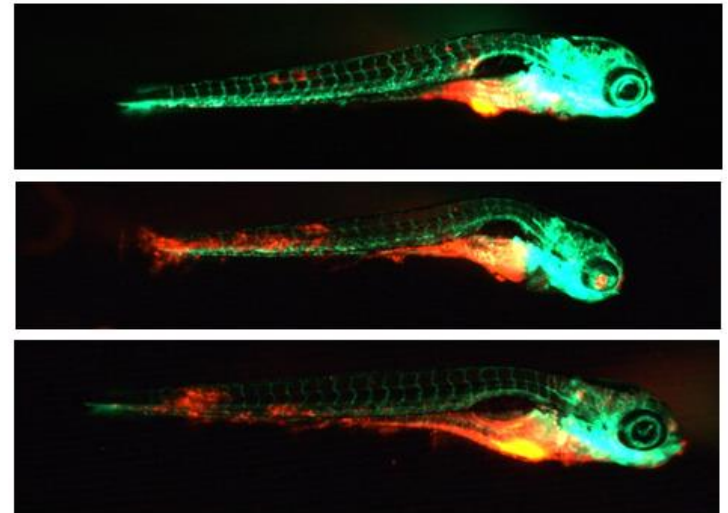
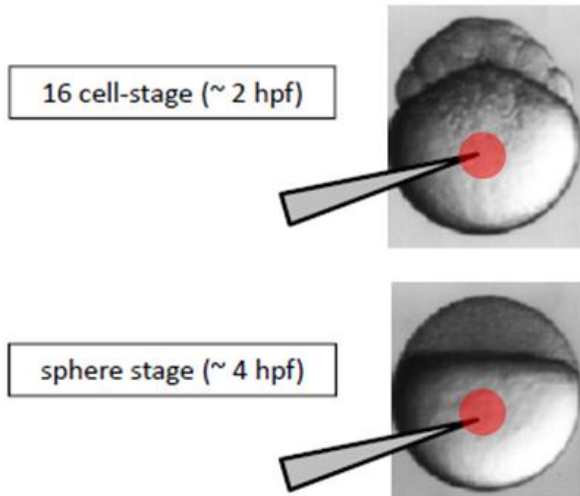
Invention 1: Yolk injection of microbes

Patent WO2011/005094 (publication date: 13 January 2011)

High throughput method and system for in vivo screening (H. Spaink and R. Dirks)

injection stage

5 day old larvae with tuberculosis

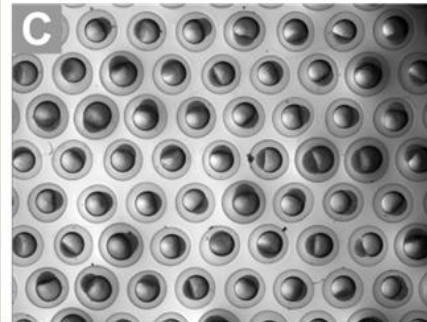
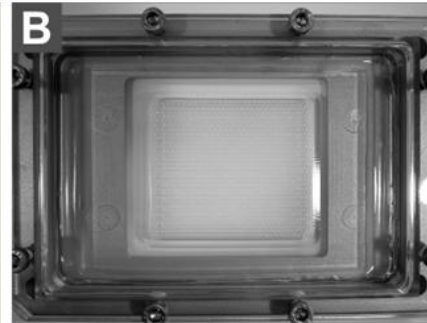
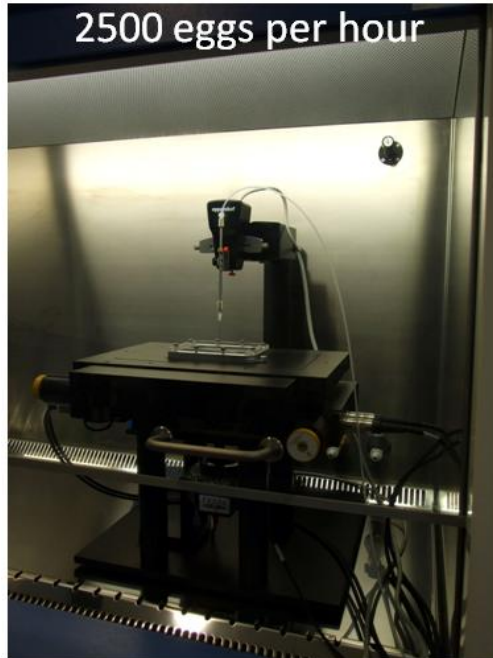




Invention 2: Automated yolk injection of microbes

Patent WO2011/005094 (publication date: 13 January 2011)

High throughput method and system for in vivo screening (H. Spaink and R. Dirks)

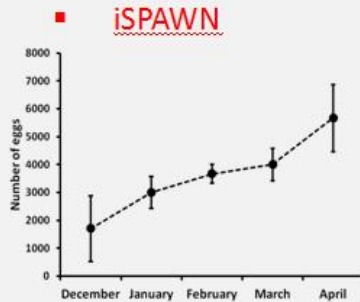


Collaboration with
Jan de Sonnevile
(LifeScienceMethods)



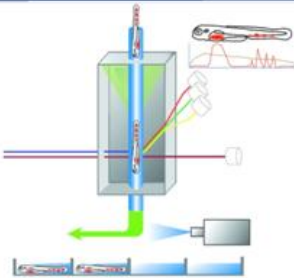
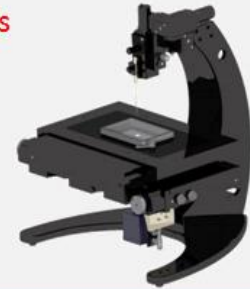
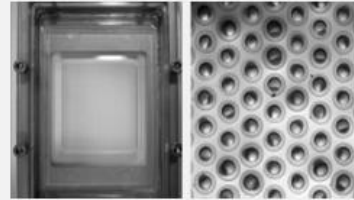
High throughput drug screening in zebrafish; 7 day screening pipeline

large-scale production of synchronized embryos



high-speed robotic inrayolk injection of bacteria

- high speed and capacity
- automatic needle calibration
- optimized needles



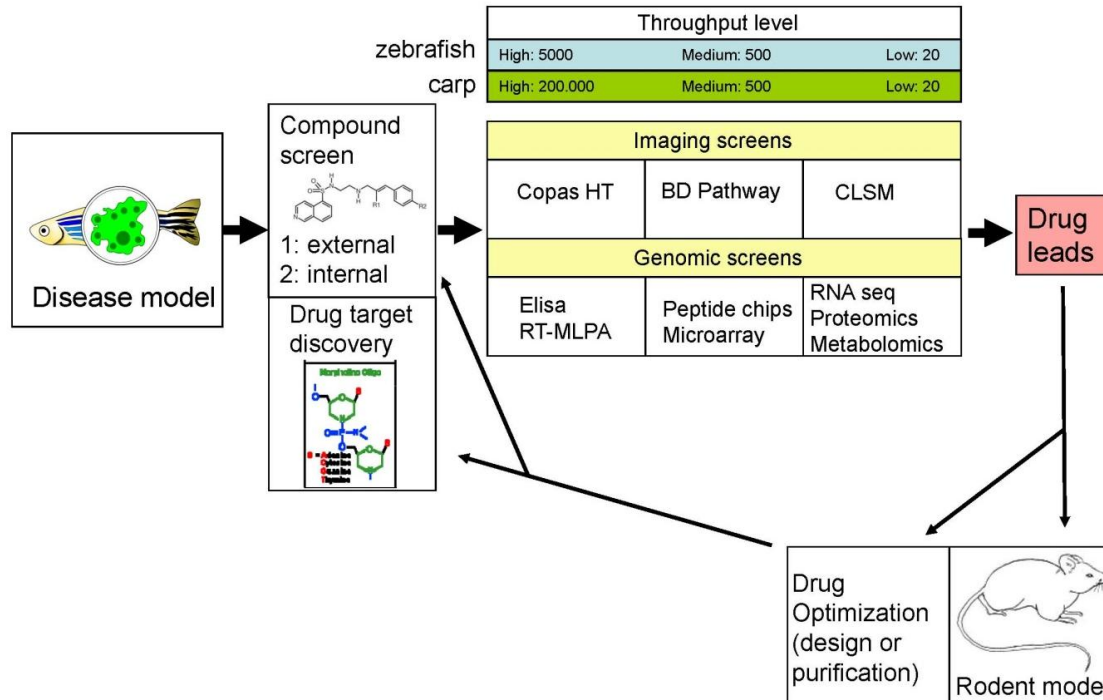
screening assays:
optimized COPAS
sorting protocols

- pre-sort larvae at 3 dpi to obtain homogeneously infected groups
- consecutive measurements at 4, 5, 6, 7 dpi





High throughput drug screening in zebrafish zebrafish fills gap between cell culture and rodents



ZF-screens



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ZF-screens

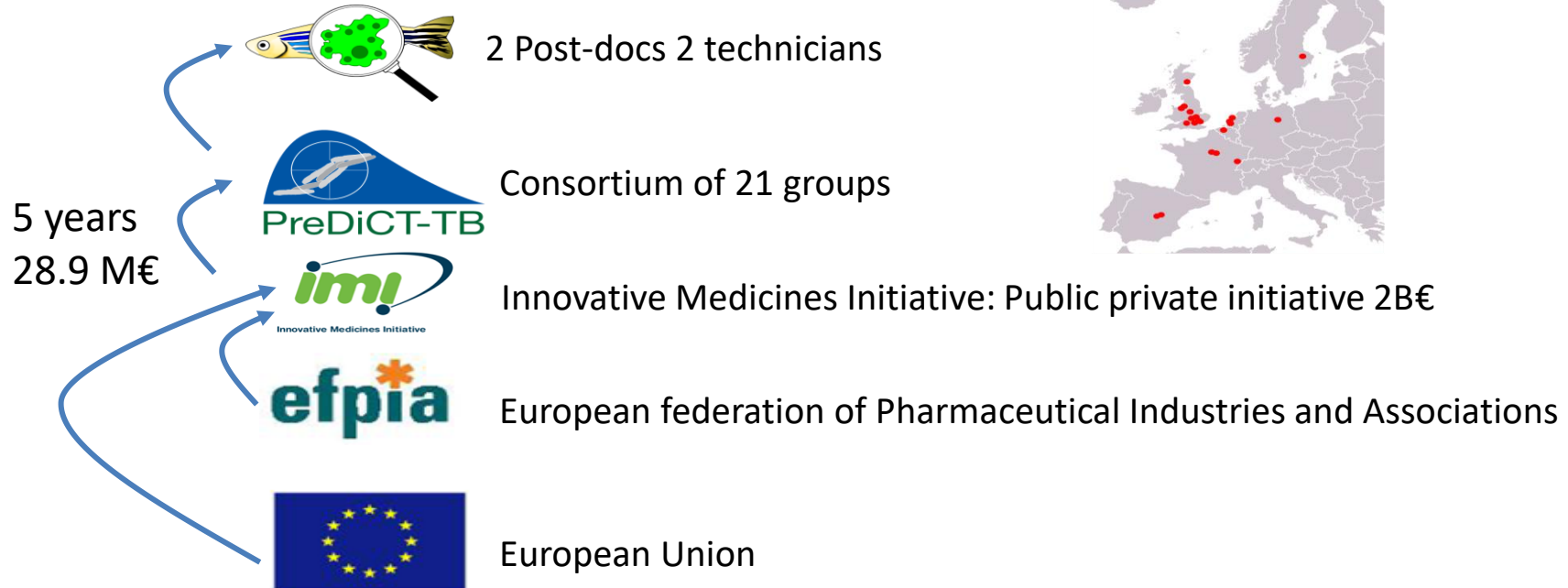


- Financial resources until now:
 - National and European grants
 - e.g. SmartMix (ZF-pharma); LNV (NewCatch)
 - e.g. ZF-Tools (FP6), ZF-Cancer (FP7), FishForPharma (ITN)
 - Customers
 - pharmaceutical companies (infectious diseases)
 - service activities
 - Next generation sequencing
 - CRISPR/Cas9 zebrafish mutants

ZF-screens

PreDiCT-TB (IMI project)

Model-based preclinical development of anti-tuberculosis drug combinations



ZF-screens



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ZF-screens

- NewCatch (ZF-Implant)

- quality high enough (massive production of hormone)
- immunological rejection by host
- high cost of product
- activity stopped in 2015

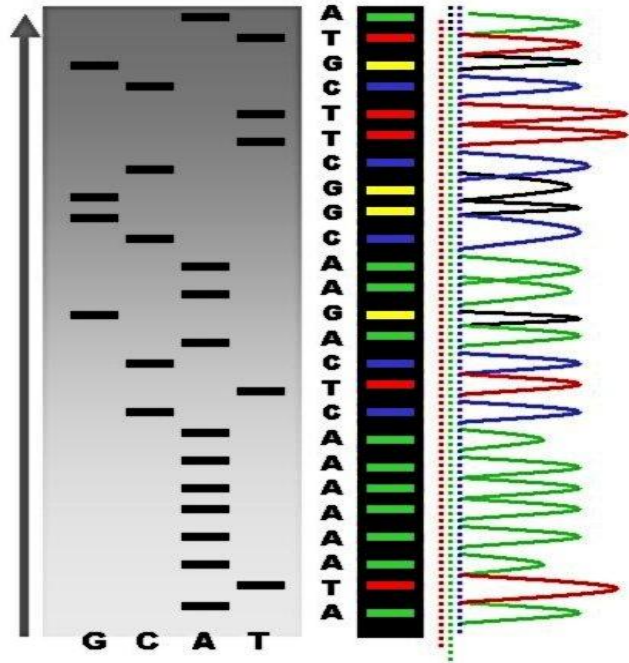


- ZF-pharma (in vivo drug screening in zebrafish)

- complete screening pipeline needs 7-day-old larvae
- 2015: new strict EU and Dutch legislation
 - only 5-day-old larvae allowed → activity stopped in 2016



First generation sequencing



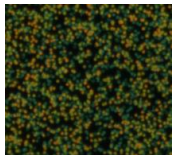
“dideoxy” or “Sanger” sequencing (1977)

- (capillary) electrophoresis
- reads length up to 1,000 nt

Human Genome Project (1990-2003)

- ~ 3.3 billion nucleotides
- ~ 3 billion US Dollars

Second generation sequencing



“massive parallel” or “Illumina” sequencing
(Roche 454, Solid) (~ 2006)

- sequence millions of fragments simultaneously
- microscopy
- read length up to ~ 250 nt
- 600 Gb per day

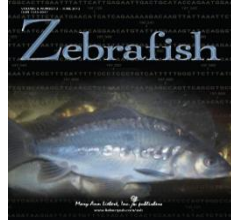
Giant Panda Genome Project (Li et al., 2010, Nature 463, 311-317)

- first vertebrate “Illumina only” project

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genome projects at ZF-screens



European eel
PLoS ONE, 2012

Japanese eel
GENE, 2012

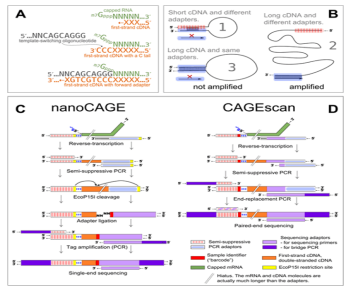
Common carp
Zebrafish, 2012

King cobra
PNAS, 2013

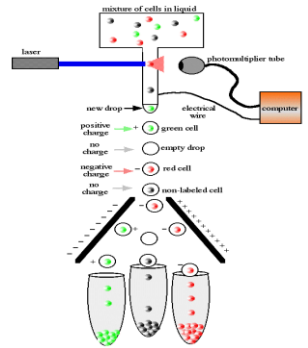
transcriptomics projects at ZF-screens



multiple regular mRNA-seq projects (mostly zebrafish)



NanoCage sequencing



FACS-sorted cells

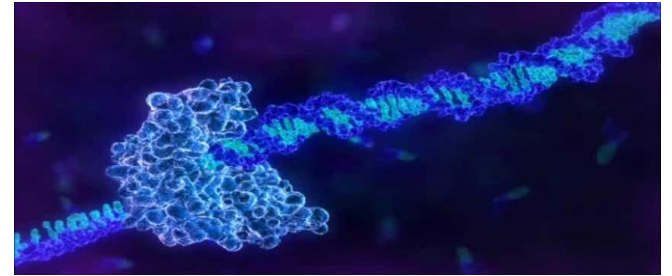
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Single molecule sequencing (SMS) (third generation sequencing)



- Pacific Biosciences



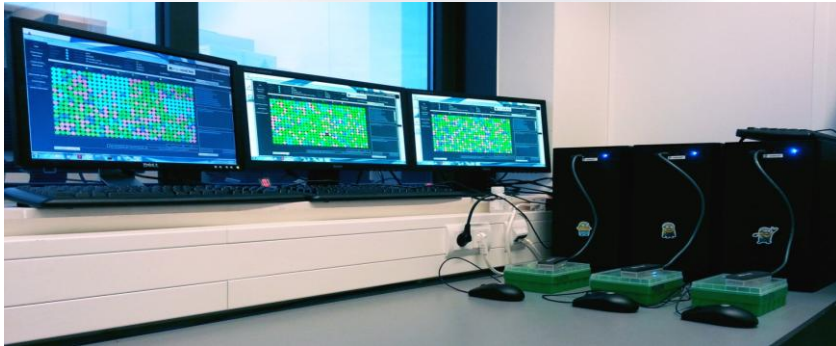
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De novo genome assembly with long reads
via Nanopore sequencing

Oxford Nanopore Technologies; <http://www.nanoporetech.com>

MinION



PromethION



available by December 2016

predicted output: 6 Tb per day!!!

ZF-screens



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ZF-screens



- Future financial resources:
 - Service activities
 - Genomics projects
 - Zebrafish larvae Tox projects (up to 5 days)
 - Customers
 - Industry
 - Academia
 - Hospitals
 - Grants (genomics)
 - e.g. Horizon2020: ParaFishControl

ZF-screens

- Summary

- Continuous product innovation



- ZF-implant (2007 - 2015)
- Zebrafish screening pipelines (2008 - 2016...)
- Next generation sequencing (2009 - ...)

- Continuously changing financial landscape

- financial crisis (extremely careful banks)
- investors (short term return on investment)
- changing national and EU grants
 - from academic to nearly commercial projects

ZF-screens



Thanks for your attention

