

UCLA Health / CTI Medical Laboratories Launch Ceremony Celebrates Groundbreaking Partnership



At the ceremonial new logo unveiling are (left to right) Mike Bonin, Los Angeles City Councilmember, Dr. Serge Alexanian, Chief Medical Officer of UCLA Health / CTI Medical Laboratories, Dr. Jianyu Rao, Professor and director of UCLA Cytopathology, Gil Cedillo, Los Angeles City Councilmember, Dr. Scott Binder, Professor and senior vice chair of UCLA Pathology, Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, Sangem Hsu, president of CTI, Gil Garcetti, UNESCO Cultural Ambassador and previous Los Angeles District Attorney, Tim Lou, Chief Executive Officer of UCLA Health / CTI Medical Laboratories, Dr. Qinlong Zheng, Chief Operating Officer of UCLA Health / CTI Medical Laboratories, Rick Jacobs, Deputy Chief of Staff for Mayor Garcetti, and Paul Fasi, Vice President of CTI North America Life Sciences.

UCLA Health / CTI Medical Laboratories, a new partnership between the world renowned University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Health enterprise and China's leading product and environmental quality testing and validation firm, Centre Testing International (CTI), hosted a wildly successful Launch Ceremony on November 19th in the Zhabei district of Shanghai.

The event boasted a striking turnout and keen interest by participants, which included the Honorable Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, escorting a delegation of local leaders in tourism, business and medicine, as well as one-hundred twenty guests representing multi-national and domestic pharmaceutical and biotech companies, contract research organizations, universities, hospitals, oncology groups, local medical laboratories, elite health clubs, medical tourism groups, governmental entities, and media outlets.

During the event, Mayor Garcetti presided over the ceremonial logo unveiling and partnership ribbon cutting and presented a certificate to the co-founders of the laboratory, Sangem Hsu, President of CTI and Dr. Scott Binder, senior vice chair of Pathology and director of Pathology laboratory services at UCLA, commemorating the exciting new partnership which links two of the Pacific's most vibrant cities.

"Los Angeles is a hub for medical excellence and innovation, and the UCLA Department of Pathology is on the cutting edge of clinical testing," said Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. "Through this partnership with CTI, UCLA can share its expertise with fellow scientists while improving health care and the quality of life for the people of China."

The event included presentations by senior members of the laboratory staff showcasing UCLA's extensive history of providing medical consultation in China and the new laboratory's advanced medical services and unique position as the first collaboration between an internationally recognized U.S. academic medical center and a local Chinese partner to create a specialized patient testing, clinical trials, and education center which leverages UCLA's extensive subspecialty medical expertise to raise the standard of care.

"Our laboratory will bring UCLA's state-of-the-art clinical diagnostic testing and pathology expertise to China to support pharmaceutical companies' local clinical trial programs, and offer advanced diagnostic services and companion testing at the highest international standards," said Dr. Serge Alexanian, the facility's chief medical officer and laboratory medical director.



Within the laboratory's anatomic pathology processing area are (from left to right) Gil Garcetti (UNESCO), Dr. Serge Alexanian (UCLA), Mayor Eric Garcetti (LA City), Dr. Qinlong Zheng (CTI), Gil Cedillo and Mike Bonin (LA City), Dr. Scott Binder (UCLA), Rick Jacobs and Stephen Cheung (LA City).

With a focus on anatomic pathology services, including international telepathology, as well as high complexity laboratory testing in genomics, flow cytometry, and a myriad of other areas, the 25,000-square-foot facility will offer sophisticated tests that exceed the scope of the average lab in China.

"Our collaboration will offer the people of China oncology, pathology and laboratory medicine services they can trust," said Sangem Hsu. "Many of these services are not largely available in China and are needed by physicians and health care providers to accurately diagnose and treat their patients."

UCLA pathologists and laboratory staff will train Chinese lab specialists to accurately interpret the tests via a comprehensive educational exchange program designed to raise the level of testing quality to guarantee that the local operation will function as a true satellite branch of UCLA.

"Because pathology has a history of being undervalued in China, the country has a shortage of pathologists trained to diagnose and interpret complex test results in specialized fields of medicine," Dr. Binder said. "Our partnership gives CTI and UCLA the opportunity to save lives by changing that."



At the ribbon cutting ceremony in front of the medical laboratory are (from left to right) Dr. Jianyu Rao (UCLA), Gil Cedillo (LA City), Sangem Hsu (CTI), Mayor Eric Garcetti (LA City), Dr. Scott Binder (UCLA), Mike Bonin (LA City), and Dr. Serge Alexanian (UCLA).