

Cordlife and AMILI partner to launch the first-ever gut microbiome banking service in Southeast Asia



Testing and processing of the gut microbiome obtained from clients' stool samples, before it is stored for a long-term cryopreservation

- Gut microbiome banking is the cryopreservation of a person's gut microbiome harvested from stool samples.
- The stool sample is processed and banked for future use in gut microbiome transplants (GMT), which is the transfer of healthy bacteria-rich stool into the gastrointestinal tract of a patient in order to restore microbial balance to enable a well-functioning gut.
- The partnership between Cordlife and AMILI is the first-of-its-kind, with the aim of providing transformative healthcare solutions to patients in Singapore and Southeast Asia.

SINGAPORE, 21 June 2022 – Cordlife Group Limited (“Cordlife” or the “Company” and together with its subsidiaries, the “Group”), a Singapore Exchange mainboard listed consumer healthcare company, and **AMILI Pte. Ltd.** (“AMILI”), announced today a strategic partnership to provide the first-ever gut microbiome banking service in Singapore and the region. This partnership synergises the two company's core specialisations - gut microbiome processing and analysis by AMILI and cryopreservation by Cordlife - to allow people in Singapore to store their gut microbiome for future faecal microbiota transplants (“FMT”). The gut microbiome banking service is marketed by Cordlife through its wholly owned subsidiary Cordlife Technologies Pte Ltd.

Cordlife, as one of Asia's pioneers in cryopreservation of umbilical cord blood obtained from babies, sees this partnership as another step towards expanding its cryopreservation expertise. Commenting on the partnership, Ms Tan Poh Lan, Cordlife's Group Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director said, “We are excited to launch Southeast Asia's first-ever gut microbiome banking service with AMILI, as we work together to develop a holistic approach for the well-being of

our community. We hope that our partnership will help provide patients in Singapore and the region with access to approved alternative medical therapy.”

Commenting on the partnership, Dr Jeremy Lim from AMILI said, “We doctors and scientists now know the importance of the gut microbiome in human health. With advances in genetic sequencing and computing, the secrets of the gut microbiome are being unlocked and new applications developed in conditions as diverse as autism, dementia, Parkinson’s disease, inflammatory bowel disease and diabetes. It is no surprise that the gut microbiome has been described as one of the most important scientific discoveries for human healthcare in recent decades. We are thrilled to partner with Cordlife to offer gut microbiome banking to the community and extend the availability of restorative microbiome interventions.”

Strategic alliance for healthcare transformation

The foundation of this strategic partnership stems from mounting evidence suggesting that FMT is a promising approach for a myriad of diseases such as colorectal cancer, autism spectrum disorder, and even obesity. FMT or gut microbiome transplantation is the transfer of healthy microbiomes from a healthy person into the gastrointestinal tract of a sick person in order to restore microbial balance. The transplantation is a widely accepted treatment for recurrent *Clostridioides difficile* (“C. diff”) infection, with cure rates of up to 90%.¹ The first GMT for C. diff was performed by AMILI co-founder Adj Associate Professor David Ong in Singapore at the National University Hospital in 2014.²

The gut microbiome describes the trillions of bacteria, viruses and fungi in the human gut. The microbiome is essential for human health and plays important roles in immune function, metabolism and brain health. The microbiome deteriorates over time and can be severely affected by gut infections and prolonged use of antibiotics. Currently, there are more than 300 clinical trials to establish the role of the gut microbiome in over 50 conditions including allergy, immune system functioning, metabolism, autism and dementia.³

Some of the other conditions under clinical trials with GMT are:

Crohn's disease	Obesity	Multiple sclerosis	Parkinson's disease
Metabolic syndrome	Autism spectrum disorder	Gouty arthritis	Bipolar depression
Melanoma	Liver cirrhosis	Prostate cancer	Epilepsy

¹ Baunwall S, Lee MM, Eriksen MK, et al. Faecal microbiota transplantation for recurrent *Clostridioides difficile* infection: An updated systematic review and meta-analysis. *EClinicalMedicine*.2020;29-30. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eclinm.2020.100642>. Accessed 23 May 2022.

² Doctors perform Singapore's first faecal transplants. Today Newspaper Online website. <https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/doctors-perform-singapores-first-fecal-transplants>. Last accessed 23 May 2022.

³ Park SH, Lee JH, Shin J, et al. Cognitive function improvement after fecal microbiota transplantation in Alzheimer's dementia patient: a case report. *Current Medical and Opinion*.2021;1-6. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03007995.2021.1957807>. Accessed 16 June 2022.



AMILI set up Southeast Asia's first and only donor stool bank in 2019 in Singapore, giving patients access to gut microbiome samples from healthy donors. Since then, AMILI has provided samples to patients in Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand who need GMT. During the course of operations, AMILI received numerous requests from patients' families wanting to store their own gut microbiome for future transplants, thus providing the inspiration for this Cordlife-AMILI collaboration to provide gut microbiome cryopreservation services.

Southeast Asia's first-ever gut microbiome banking service

Gut microbiome banking, similar to egg or stem cell banking, allows individuals to cryopreserve the best version of their gut microbiome. A person's gut microbiome degrades over time and is affected by medication, diseases and ageing. Hence, banking one's gut microbiome early gives the individual the option of using it for future therapeutic purposes.

In this collaboration, AMILI will be responsible for testing and processing of the gut microbiome obtained from clients' stool samples before sending them to Cordlife's facility in Singapore for long-term cryopreservation. Cordlife has created a dedicated gut microbiome cryopreservation room, which is separated from its existing cryopreservation area for other biological samples. Clients can choose to withdraw their samples as and when they are needed for transplantation.

For more information, visit www.cordlifetech.com/gutmicrobiome.

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ABOUT CORDLIFE GROUP LIMITED

Cordlife Group Limited (“Cordlife”, together with its subsidiaries, the “Group”), founded in 2001, is a leading company dedicated to safeguarding the well-being of mother and child. Listed on the Mainboard of the Singapore Exchange since 2012, the Group is a pioneer in private cord blood banking in Asia. Cordlife operates Asia’s largest network of cord blood banks. With full stem cell banking facilities in six key markets, Cordlife is an industry leader in Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia and the Philippines, and one of the top three market leaders in India and Malaysia. Through its majority-owned subsidiary in Malaysia, Stemlife Berhad, Cordlife has an indirect stake in Thailand’s largest private cord blood bank, Thai Stemlife. In addition to cord blood, cord lining, cord tissue and lenticule banking, Cordlife offers families a comprehensive suite of diagnostics services, including non-invasive prenatal testing, paediatric vision screening and newborn metabolic screening.

Two of Cordlife’s primary focus areas are providing reliable quality and being customer-centric. All of the Group’s facilities are accredited by the Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies (“AABB”), an organisation dedicated to its mission of improving lives by making transfusion medicine and biotherapies safe, available and effective worldwide. Furthermore, Cordlife Singapore and Healthbaby Hong Kong are the only two full-fledged private cord blood banks in Asia and five worldwide to be accredited by both AABB and the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (“FACT”), another world-class accreditation body for cord blood banks worldwide. In the area of clinical diagnostics, Cordlife India, Cordlife Hong Kong and Healthbaby Hong Kong are all accredited by the College of American Pathologists (“CAP”). This makes Healthbaby Hong Kong the only private cord blood bank in the world to be accredited by three international standard-setting bodies, and Cordlife India one of the only two medical laboratories in West Bengal to be holding accreditations from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (“NABL”) and CAP. These quality achievements reinforce the Group’s commitment to providing reliable healthcare solutions through innovation and technological advancement. For more information, visit <http://cordlife.listedcompany.com>.

ABOUT AMILI

AMILI is a precision gut microbiome company based in Singapore serving the region. Through its proprietary analytics engine PRIME, AMILI develops diagnostics tests, predictive algorithms and microbiome-modifying interventions. Its consumer health arm, BIO & ME, utilises insights from AMILI’s database and PRIME to generate Asia-centric solutions towards personalised diets, supplementation and precision health. AMILI also houses Southeast Asia’s first and only gut microbiome bank for clinical use and research. For more information, visit www.amili.asia.

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