

# VIDEO INSIGHT WITH CLAIRE HUGUET



CLAIRE HUGUET, Head of Biomarkers, RANDOX



## What was the biggest biomarkers story of 2017?

That's a big question because there has been so much happening in 2017, so just to quote a few, the necessity of have multiple combination therapy in immuno-oncology or PSTC looking at qualifying safety biomarkers in depth. I think for me the most striking story was the efforts to validate the biomarker panel for IPF.

## What issues faced the biomarkers industry in 2017?

I think one issue that was 2017 specific was the long awaited IVDR regulation, because it's a significant change in the practice. I think it's going to have some impact in the way the entire IVD industry is strategizing their whole development portfolio. There is also the challenge of keeping up to speed with the enormous number of new biomarkers and being able to pick those which are of interest.

## What will 2018 hold for the biomarkers industry?

I think that one of the most significant things will be that CDxs are going to expand outside of oncology, they are going to invade autoimmunity, inflammation, but also most likely cardiovascular. I'm also expecting multiplexing to become the rule and not only single assessment of biomarkers, but combined assessment of biomarkers to become essential.

## What will be the biggest technology impact for 2018?

I think the biggest technology impact is going to be bioinformatics, because as multiplexing becomes essential you need to be switching from individual biomarker interpretation to index interpretation, taking into account the contribution of all the biomarkers in the panels. I also think that antibody fragments, which are contributing to bridging therapeutics and diagnostics are going to be more prominent.

## What inspires you within your current role?

The fact that innovation and translational medicine have always been the drivers in my career, more specifically, the development of panels, also the area of single domain antibodies. Helping people remain in good health and improving health globally remains a key driver for me, people are still dying of predictable and treatable disease and we should put a stop to that.

## What are the future challenges researchers are facing in this field?

I think one of the challenges is the high specialisation that people face, so people are extremely specialised and as science is accumulating in each of the different areas, it's hard to keep track of what can impact the rest. You don't want the discoveries and improvements in one domain to become harmful in another.

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