Examples of Ipsen Partnerships

Mendelian Partnership

In early 2021, we announced the launch of a partnership with rare disease digital health specialists Mendelian. The initiative involves using Mendelian's MendelScan software to help primary care professionals rapidly identify suspected cases of two rare diseases: neuroendocrine cancers and rare bone disorders.

MendelScan software, which uses state-of-the-art technology, data capture and the latest medical knowledge, is designed to integrate into NHS systems and scan patients' electronic health records. It is used by general practitioners (GPs) to alert them to risk factors of specific rare diseases, enabling faster referral and diagnosis.

For both conditions focused on by the partnership, time to diagnosis can be very variable. The average time to diagnosis for a rare disease is 5 years in the UK[i], with some waiting over 30 years, and symptoms are often mistaken for other, less serious issues.[ii] In neuroendocrine cancers, for example, symptoms can include fatigue or feeling bloated and over half of patients are thought to be advised by their GP to simply come back if symptoms persist.[iii]

For GPs, diagnosing rare diseases can be exceptionally challenging as they will be expected to recognise symptoms they may never see in their entire careers. MendelScan software has digitalised the knowledge that was once only stored in books and the brains of the very best specialist consultants, and can alert GPs to risk factors that can help them make swifter referrals and diagnoses.

Ipsen has been delighted to work with Mendelian on this joint initiative, showcasing the value collaboration and digital health can have on improving the disease journey for people living with a rare disease. We look forward to being able to publish the results of the partnership in due course.

i Mendelian. The Role of the GP in Rare Disease Diagnosis and Care. Available at: The Role of the GP in Rare Disease Diagnosis and Care | MENDELIAN.CO Accessed: March 2022

ii Eurordis. Undiagnosed rare diseases. Available at: Undiagnosed rare diseases (eurordis.org) Accessed: March 2022

iii Ipsen - Data on file: DR-UK-000105

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