
DEDICATION TO THE FIGHT AGAINST DISEASE

DR ROSEMARY TAN
Chief Executive Officer & Founder,
Veredus Laboratories

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A person driven by her convictions and dedication to science. That, in a nutshell, sums up Dr Rosemary Tan, CEO of Veredus Laboratories, a medical device company specialising in portable diagnostic tool kits. The company she founded is one which combines her belief that tools to diagnose diseases should be readily available to all, and one which ignites her passion to prevent the spread of diseases effectively through low-cost, robust and efficient diagnostic tools.

Rosemary's journey began in 1996 when she joined A*STAR's Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology (IMCB). The one year proved to be a defining one where she learnt three lessons: 1) Create an impact from the work that you do. 2) Love what you do and excel at it. 3) Make friends everywhere you go.



One of the key products from Veredus Laboratories – the VereChip™ is a Lab-on-Chip device.



TAKING HEALTH AND SAFETY TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Veredus Laboratories' Lab-on-Chip (LOC) devices can detect and identify multiple pathogens in one test. From tuberculosis, flu epidemics and food safety to biological weapons, avian disease and more, the company has developed several practical applications that address health and safety issues with some of the advantages as follows:



Quick:

Fast turnaround time



Mobile:

Portable for use at areas such as checkpoints and borders



Comprehensive:

Tests for multiple pathogens



Easy to use:

Simple workflow for use by minimally trained personal

With these takeaways, Rosemary founded Veredus in 2003. Her first commercialised kits were the Malaria and H5N1 PCR tests – both of which tapped A*STAR's licences in the respective areas. However, the challenge was that such kits require a lot of hands-on work. Rosemary had a vision for the kit to be multiplexing – an approach that can detect multiple targets or pathogens in a single test – and to work effectively based on a simpler workflow. In her relentless pursuit of perfection, she came across ST Microelectronics' Lab-on-Chip (LOC) which she felt could solve the challenge.

The company was looking for a bio-application partner to design DNA panels on the chip which led to their collaboration in 2006, with ST Microelectronics becoming a major investor in 2011. Three years later, the majority shareholdership changed hands

to Accuron, a wholly owned subsidiary of Temasek Holdings, and Veredus acquired the LOC DNA spotting capability.

Today, Veredus continues to fulfil Rosemary's vision to arrest the spread of disease through cost-effective solutions. The company has several new developments on hand, one of which is a chip that can detect and identify the big six bacteria that contaminate beef produce – thus bridging a gap in food safety.

While the entrepreneurship journey has been challenging, Rosemary remains steadfast. "I believe we are doing something meaningful. It's not a glamorous job, with lots of hard work and hard decisions. I am proud that we are visionary and daring in our approach. At the end of the day, it's not just a job, but a part of life's purpose to help humanity."