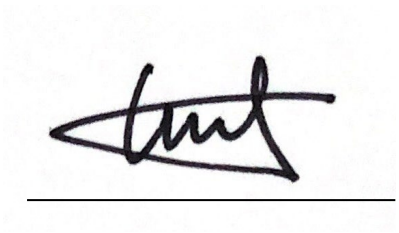
Nov 28th, 2021

Impact of the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 on BTNX's Rapid Response® COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test Device

The new variant of SARS-CoV-2, Omicron (B.1.1.529), was first reported to WHO on Nov. 24th from South Africa, where infections have risen steeply. This new variant carries over 30 genetic changes due to mutations, primarily affecting the Spike (S) protein of SARS-CoV-2. Since then, it has caused great concerns globally.

BTNX's Rapid Response® COVID-19 Antigen Test Device is designed to detect the SARS-CoV-2 viral **nucleocapsid proteins**. Mutations of the nucleocapsid proteins for the Omicron variant include P13L, Δ31-33, R203K, and G204R. BTNX has urgently analysed the sequences from the Omicron variant to understand the implication of these mutations. Based on the preliminary analysis, we anticipate that the Omicron variant will be detectable by the Rapid Response® COVID-19 Antigen Test Device.

BTNX will conduct *in-vitro* studies to confirm the affect on test performance. The results will be made available as soon as the investigations are concluded. BTNX continues to follow the latest findings on COVID-19 and remain committed to maintaining the highest level of excellency in our products.



Lu Li, Ph.D
Scientific Director
BTNX Inc., 570 Hood Road, Unit 23
Markham, ON, L3R 4G7, CANADA