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Congress presentations support accelerating commercialisation for endo-microscopy

- ***4 new clinical applications with strong efficacy data***
- ***Studies document endo-microscopy is easy to learn***

USA, 23 March: The 2007 Digestive Diseases Week congress (DDW) will include 14 presentations of studies using Optiscan's endo-microscopy technology. The results of these studies will further accelerate commercialisation of the technology.

The organisers of the largest and most important annual congress in Gastro Intestinal Medicine released abstracts of presentations to be given at DDW 2007. Fourteen studies from 8 hospitals in USA, Germany, Italy, Australia and Japan were accepted for presentation at the Congress, ensuring a continued high profile for Optiscan's endo-microscopy technology.

Studies will be presented with strong efficacy data in 4 new application areas that have not previously been reported. These include:

- Diagnosis and mapping of squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus;
- Detection of graft versus host disease in stem cell recipients;
- Post operative monitoring in restorative proctocolectomy surgery;
- Liver disease imaging (an application of the rigid endo-microscope).

"The rate of growth in endo-microscopy applications is really impressive", said Peter Delaney, Optiscan's Director of Technology, "Gastroenterologists are quickly learning the value of endo-microscopy for an increasing range of medical challenges".

In the first study to formally document the ease of learning to use an endo-microscope (learning curve study), investigators from Johns Hopkins Hospital (Baltimore MD) concluded "*The reliability of CLE (confocal laser endo-microscopy) as a diagnostic test performed by gastroenterologists is high, particularly for neoplasia (early stage cancer), regardless of experience level, and is superior to that of existing imaging technologies such as endo-sonography.*"

Of critical importance to commercialisation in the USA, the Johns Hopkins study also reported that these results were achieved without increasing procedure time.

Commenting on the significance of this study, Mr Delaney said, "This Hopkins study has shown us that endo-microscopy can be learned quickly, with immediate benefit to gastroenterologists working in the busy and time-pressured US health care environment. This is tremendously significant for the technology's uptake in this important market."

Other studies include:

- 5 studies reporting excellent inter-observer agreement data
- A summary of Mainz University Hospital's experience from their first 1000 procedures, reporting safe and efficacious application across a broad range of GI endoscopy procedures.



Background

Optiscan is a global leader in microscopic imaging technologies for medical markets.

Optiscan's unique and patented technologies enable high-powered microscopes to be miniaturised and used inside the body. The technology enables microscopic imaging of up to 1000 times magnification to be achieved. Doctors can use the technology to instantly see cellular level details of tissue without the requirement to surgically remove tissue (biopsy).

Pentax is the second largest producer of flexible endoscopes in the US\$1.2Bn pa global flexible endoscope market.

Pentax has been licensed by Optiscan to use its patented miniaturised microscope technology.

Pentax released the world's first fully functional flexible endo-microscope for sale in March 2006.

Optiscan manufactures and sells to Pentax the high value key operating components of the miniaturised endo-microscope system.

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