

ASX Announcements

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Optiscan Releases World's First Endomicroscope

Optiscan Imaging Limited announced today that it has officially released its first research confocal endomicroscope.

"We are very excited about the release of this unique endomicroscope," said Roger Wallis, Optiscan's general manager. "It represents another very important step in our development plan to release a stand-alone system for clinical use."

Produced as an attachment to the current bench top research F900e Personal Confocal system, the endomicroscope "probe" is used instead of a conventional microscope to allow imaging of living tissue in vivo. Unlike a conventional microscope, the endomicroscope probe can be positioned at almost any angle onto difficult -to-reach or thick living specimens.

Applications for the endomicroscope include use in the fields of anatomical pathology, cell biology, dermatology, life sciences, neuroscience, histo-pathology, pharmacology, physiology, forensic science and veterinary science. Researchers at Monash University have been quick to embrace this technology and apply it to skin research and investigation of gastrointestinal tract diseases.

"We have produced this rigid endomicroscope to assist in application development and at this stage we have no plans to release it for sale outside of Australia." said Wallis. "We have already received enthusiastic inquiries about the system from scientists engaged in biomedical applications research, suggesting additional possibilities for future collaborations."

Optiscan Imaging Limited is a Melbourne based, Australian listed company (OIL), engaged in research and development to produce a miniature confocal endomicroscope for clinical use, which permits direct and non-invasive views of cells inside the human body. This flexible confocal endomicroscope will allow living cells to be viewed under high magnification at the actual time of medical consultation. The potential benefits of this innovative diagnostic technology include the facilitation of direct microscopic diagnosis and the reduction of time needed to take tissue samples invasively for biopsy examination in the laboratory. The high on-going costs related to curative medicine is seen as Optiscan's major opportunity.