

ASX Announcements

14 April, 2000

Optiscan Probe To Be Tried In Wide Range Of Skin Conditions. Optiscan is pleased to report that The Alfred Hospital ethics committee has approved a trial of Optiscan's miniaturised microscope technology in the non-invasive diagnosis, differentiation and monitoring of psoriasis and other inflammatory skin lesions.

Psoriasis alone involves annual US treatment expenditure of US\$2.9 billion. Some of the limitations in managing sufferers of psoriasis and other inflammatory skin conditions relate to difficulties in accurate diagnosis and identifying disease progression.

Optiscan's technology magnifies skin cells 2000 times without the need for biopsies. Digital images appear in real time on a computer screen, offering immediate diagnosis with sub-cellular precision.

Optiscan's technology enjoys a growing realm of applications, with the impending release of its first clinical product being a hand held probe for dermatology. The trial is representative of this progression, which will be important in the positioning of Optiscan's first product and maximising its desirability to medical practitioners.

The trial is to be conducted by Associate Professor John Kelly, The Alfred Hospital (Melbourne), and is expected to commence in the coming weeks.

Optiscan's hand held probe is also targeted at applications in the biopsy free detection and monitoring of skin cancer and burn depth analysis. A flexible endoscopic version is also being developed for applications in detection of colon cancer and other gastrointestinal disorders.