

ASX Announcements

December 1997

Optiscan Imaging Limited Update - December 1997 Human Disease Diagnosis

The Australian designed miniature microscope for human use, or endomicroscope, allows direct high magnification non-invasive views of cells deep within the tissue inside the human body. This world's first technology offers not only the possibility of reducing the number of biopsy sections taken for examination, more exciting is the ability of viewing living human cells at the time of a consultation.

Since a successful listing on the Australian Stock Exchange in August, Optiscan have edged closer to their ultimate goal of producing a clinical version of the miniature endomicroscope with the appointment of additional key engineering personnel. The appointments bring specific expertise to the project and will significantly increase the current rate of development.

Optiscan has identified gastroenterologists, dermatologists and gynaecologists, both in specialists rooms and hospitals, as the major users of the technology. Costs associated with curative medical treatment or simply caring for cancer patients are immense and therefore Optiscan's technology offers the potential to save significant health care costs by improving early detection, diagnosis and improving treatment outcomes and patient quality of life.

Further proof of the acceptance of Optiscan's technology has come from sales of a research version of the instrument, mounting directly to conventional microscopes. To date thirteen instruments are in use within the Australian research community and many more prospective researchers have included their desire for the technology in medical grant applications.

The introduction of the miniaturised technology takes place this current financial year with the release of the world's first endomicroscope, to be in production initially as an attachment to the current research system.

Additionally, Optiscan have opened channels for international licensing and collaboration with the world's largest medical optical instrument companies intended to both maximise the potential clinical endomicroscope market size and minimise the time to market.