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ASX Release

Leading peer review journal positive about Optiscan's flexible endo microscope

- **Industry leading journal *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy* reports Optiscan endo-microscope technology as a major technical advance**
- **CEO expects coverage to lift profile amongst doctors and help accelerate sales**

The November edition of the high profile medical journal *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy* (GIE) has featured an article and editorial on the Optiscan / Pentax flexible endo-microscopes.

"Obtaining this GIE publication with accompanying editorial is another strong testament for our endo-microscope technology in its key target market.", said Matthew Barnett, Optiscan's CEO. "We expect this excellent journal coverage will help accelerate Pentax sales of our endo-microscopes", he said.

Important for market adoption rates of Optiscan / Pentax endo-microscopes, the article emphasises the practicality of using these instruments in everyday clinical practice. The GIE article states in its conclusion,

> *"The development of a fluorescent confocal endomicroscope makes it practical to examine the upper and lower-GI mucosa* (tissue lining) *in cellular detail during otherwise routine endoscopic examination."*

The GIE article describes the Optiscan / Pentax confocal endo-microscopes in some technical detail, provides descriptions of clinical procedures and summarises early clinical trial results. The article also showcases high resolution images showing clear cellular detail obtained from various parts of the gastrointestinal tract of patients.

The accompanying GIE editorial re-emphasised that endo-microscopy is a powerful and practical new imaging technique capable of revealing the cellular and sub-cellular details of tissue needed for diagnosis of pathology (disease). The editorial also discussed the instrument's present applications as only the beginning:

> *"Confocal microendoscopy is expected to go beyond in vivo histopathology to dynamic physiologic and molecular biologic measurements and create new frontiers in GI endoscopy".*

"Endorsement from opinion leaders is a key component of our marketing. This GIE publication builds on very favourable views offered from leading doctors at international conferences and in previous editorial commentary", said Mr. Barnett.

Background

Gastrointestinal Endoscopy is an industry leading peer review journal with a specific focus on advances in clinical gastro intestinal procedures performed with endoscopes. It is a highly respected journal with a wide global readership by endoscopist physicians.

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).

Gastroenterologists use flexible endoscopes to view inside the gastro intestinal tract. They are an essential piece of equipment in the screening, diagnosis and treatment of colon, large intestine, stomach and oesophageal cancers and pre-cancers.

Endo-microscope clinical trials have demonstrated excellent efficacy in the diagnosis of very early stage cancers with trial data showing excellent sensitivity, specificity and accuracy in the diagnosis of neoplasia.

Pentax is the second largest producer of flexible endoscopes in the US$900Mpa global flexible endoscope market.

Pentax is Optiscan's partner for endo-microscopy in field of flexible endoscopes. Together, the two companies have developed the world's first fully functional flexible endo-microscope. This instrument, the Pentax ISC 1000, was launched to the market in May 2005.

Pentax are actively marketing the ISC 1000 worldwide with first sales due early in 2006.

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