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Expanding role for endo-microscopy reported at DDW congress

- *Strong interest in ISC-1000 flexible endo-microscope featured by Pentax*
- *Previously established efficacy confirmed for early detection of cancer*
- *Non-cancer applications extended*
- *Cumulative experience data in 1000 patients confirms excellent safety record*

Washington DC, USA. Attendees at Digestive Diseases Week 2007 (DDW), the largest international congress for gastro intestinal medicine, have learned of the rapidly expanding experience of flexible endo-microscope use. The efficacy of endo-microscope use is featured in multiple presentations, seminars and topic forums throughout the congress.

This year, DDW presentations from doctors in USA, Germany, Italy, UK, Australia and Japan are reinforcing the already established efficacy of endo-microscopes in cancer detection applications.

General acceptance of the technique is now well established within the market, as evidenced by the frequency and quality of questions being asked of presenters, and the levels of interest shown in the ISC-1000 instrument at the Pentax exhibition.

The American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) Presidential Plenary "GI Clinical Research : Year in Review" lecture cited advances in the area of Barrett's Esophagus, including an important publication on confocal endo-microscopy efficacy, as one of the three most important areas of progress in detection of early stage cancer.

Presentations have featured efficacy in several non-cancer applications, including diagnosis of the causes of persistent diarrhoea. This is one of the most commonly encountered symptoms presented to gastroenterologists, yet it remains one of the most difficult to diagnose the cause. Attendees at DDW heard that a recently completed study of 64 patients showed that traditional flexible endoscopes were able to diagnose the cause of diarrhoea for only 25 (<40%) of patients. Using the flexible endo-microscope, four major causes of diarrhoea could be accurately identified and diagnosed. As a result, 50% of patients with otherwise undiagnosable causes of diarrhoea could be accurately diagnosed and treated.

Presenting to his colleagues at DDW, leading German Gastroenterologist Dr Ralf Kiesslich summarised the power of endo-microscopes to assist in the accurate disease diagnosis saying, "Endo-microscopes enable us to see histology during endoscopy. All other endoscopic imaging techniques only enable us to predict it."

In another presentation covering the experience of the first 1000 patients to receive an endo-microscope procedure at Johannes Gutenberg University Hospital, Mainz, Germany doctors reported the procedure to be safe and well tolerated by all patients, changing the diagnosis made at the time of endoscopy in 32% of upper GI (throat and Stomach) and 19% of lower GI (colon) procedures.

Commenting on the first two days of activity at DDW, Peter Delaney, Optiscan's Director of Technology said, "The growing acceptance of endo-microscopes in clinical gastroenterology practice is clearly evident at this year DDW this year".

Further presentations and activity will occur over coming days.



About DDW

Digestive Diseases Week is the largest and most prestigious annual congress in gastro intestinal medicine. DDW's sponsoring and organising societies include the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) and the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE).

DDW is convened annually in May with a different US city hosting the event each year. DDW 2007 is being held in Washington DC from Sunday 19 May to Thursday 24 May.

All major advances in the field of gastro intestinal medicine are presented at DDW. The organising societies provide peer review and acceptance of abstracts for all presentations made during the congress.

Companies selling instruments, pharmaceuticals and other equipment used in gastro intestinal medicine exhibit their products in an extensive exhibition hall. Optiscan's partner Pentax is a major exhibitor, and the Pentax ISC-1000 flexible endo-microscope is featured in active demonstrations on their exhibit.

About Optiscan

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, ISC-1000, 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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