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Cooperative Diagnostics, an SC Launch Company, Uses Advanced Mathematics to Produce Diagnostics in Less than 16 Days

GREENWOOD, SC – November 16, 2009 – When the [Whittemore Peterson Institute \(WPI\)](#) recently announced the new threat of Xenotropic Murine Leukemia-Related Virus (XMRV), [Cooperative Diagnostics](#), LLC, an SC Launch company based in Greenwood, developed a diagnostic examination just 16 days following the announcement. This test may help to diagnose conditions potentially caused by XMRV. The Cooperative Diagnostics' test has garnered interest from around the world as further studies on the implications of XMRV continue.

The test, called the Simplex XMRV, identifies patients infected with XMRV. In recent studies by WPI, XMRV was found in 95% of patients with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, as well as large numbers of patients with Fibromyalgia, Atypical Multiple Sclerosis, and other conditions. The scientific community continues to investigate the veracity of these claims in addition to a number of possible conditions that could be linked to the virus. XMRV belongs to the same class of virus as HIV. It is one of three retroviruses known to infect humans and potentially disrupt normal cell function. Theoretically, the damage can cause immune-suppression, cancer, and neurological disorders.

“We’ve been told that developing this test couldn’t be done so quickly,” said Brent C. Satterfield, Ph.D., President and Founder of Cooperative Diagnostics, LLC. “We use the most advanced bioinformatics and molecular modeling strategies available. Imagine

using the old Commodore 64 to run a modern day high graphics application. It would take months or years if it happened at all.”

Cooperative Diagnostics uses the latest real-time [polymerase chain reaction \(PCR\)](#), bioinformatics and molecular modeling strategies all developed in the last two years. The proprietary computer software program developed by the company consists of complex mathematical design algorithms that identify sequences with the lowest probability of mutation over time. The technology then designs primer and probe sequences that are mathematically optimized to reduce false positives and negatives.

“Compared to modern available technology, it is like using a Google search instead of visiting 100 libraries around the world to get the exact information you are looking for,” said Dr. Satterfield. “Like engineers, we employ a proprietary system of the most advanced biophysical and bioinformatics models in our design process, allowing us to create the highest quality tests in a very short time frame. Ironically, not only does the process reduce the time to design a new test, but also increases the accuracy substantially. We believe diagnostics, like the XMRV test, are too important to be left to the trial and error (guess and check) method used by most scientists.”

Additionally, Cooperative Diagnostics recently received regulatory approval for seven products in Guatemala, which include HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Malaria, Dengue, Syphilis and Chagas. These diagnostic tests will be officially launched in the Latin American market in coming weeks. The company looks to expand in other world markets in the near future.

“As a company, we feel as though we are poised for significant growth,” said Dr. Satterfield. “We are thankful for the support we have received from SC Launch and additional investors. It is our goal to not only continue to gain economic strength, but to also offer society quality diagnostics that will improve lives.”

Cooperative Diagnostics is located in the South Carolina Biotechnology Center (SCBC) in Greenwood, SC. SCBC recently merged with the [Advanced Technology Institute](#), an

[SCRA](#) affiliate. The center offers laboratory space and support for emerging life science companies.

“Cooperative Diagnostics is a great example of the type of capabilities and responsiveness that South Carolina start-up companies can offer in a dynamic market,” said Bill Mahoney, SCRA CEO. “The innovation, technology advancement, and commercial development demonstrated by this company bring the vision of the SC Launch and SC Biotechnology Center programs to fruition.”

SC Launch has identified Cooperative Diagnostics as a promising South Carolina start-up company and is assisting them with a seed-capital investment, ongoing mentoring and SC Launch Resource Network services. Since its inception in April, 2006, SC Launch has provided counsel and support to more than 130 start-up companies. Additionally, SC Launch-supported companies have secured more than \$71 million in follow-on venture capital and private equity financing.

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About Cooperative Diagnostics

Cooperative Diagnostics, founded in January 2008, brings the most advanced molecular diagnostics to the people and nations that need them most. For more information visit www.codiagnostics.com

About SC Launch

SC Launch, an SCRA collaboration, assists entrepreneurial start-up companies with up-front counseling, seed-funding, and access to a powerful resource network. The SC Launch mission is to help generate knowledge economy jobs in South Carolina, enhance the state’s quality of life and provide opportunity for all South Carolinians in the new economy.

About SCRA

SCRA is a global leader in applied research and commercialization services with offices in South Carolina, Ohio and in the Washington, D.C. area. SCRA collaborates to

advance technology, providing technology-based solutions with assured outcomes on behalf of industry, government, and research universities in SC, the US and globally.