

Basel and Copenhagen, October 22, 2008

Press release



Roche Diagnostics grants Radiometer nonexclusive rights for NT-proBNP and Troponin T

Roche Diagnostics and Radiometer Medical announced today that Radiometer has been granted a nonexclusive license under patent rights of Roche Diagnostics to commercialize NT-proBNP (N-terminal prohormone B-type natriuretic peptide) and Troponin T on Radiometer's AQT90 FLEX POC immunoassay platform.

The agreement expands availability of cardiovascular markers that aid in the rapid diagnosis of congestive heart failure (CHF), acute myocardial infarction (AMI) and risk stratification of patients with CHF, AMI, and at cardiovascular risk. The tests can also be used for the selection of more intensive therapy and interventions in patients with elevated marker levels.

"This agreement enables Radiometer Medical to offer a wide portfolio of cardiac tests on our newly launched POC immunoassay instrument AQT90 FLEX. Our menu of cardiac test will consist of Troponin I, CKMB, Myoglobin, ultra sensitive CRP and now also NT-proBNP and Troponin T. This test portfolio combined with our pipeline of other STAT tests puts Radiometer in a very strong position to reach our goal of becoming a company which offers a full STAT testing solution", says Peter Kürstein, President, Radiometer Medical.

"NT-proBNP and Troponin T are proven cardiac markers with high diagnostic value", said Dirk Ehlers, Head of Roche Professional Diagnostics. "The cooperation with Radiometer ensures that these markers are offered with standardization to Roche Elecsys lab assays and means that even more patients can benefit from Roche's innovations in cardiac marker testing, also at the Point of Care."

Both the NT-proBNP and Troponin T are planned to become commercially available on the AQT90 FLEX in 2009.

About CHF

Congestive heart failure (CHF) impedes the ability of the heart to pump blood at a rate sufficient to support the body's vital needs. CHF affects nearly 17 million people worldwide, and is the single most frequent cause of hospitalization in people over 65 years. The prevalence of CHF is expected to continue increasing due to the aging population and improved survival rates of patients with other cardiovascular diseases.

About NT-proBNP

NT-proBNP is widely recognized as a definitive marker for the diagnosis of CHF. Elevated levels of NT-proBNP indicate the presence of heart failure, and provide physicians with an important diagnostic tool in the early detection and management of CHF.

Independently published studies show that NT-proBNP is also valuable for: risk stratification of patients with stable coronary heart disease, as a prognostic marker across the entire spectrum of cardiovascular diseases, potentially detecting early stages of CHF in the absence of clinically obvious symptoms, and for the assessment of prognosis for patients with CHF and for patients who have previously had a myocardial infarction.

About AMI

Acute myocardial infarction (AMI) is commonly referred to as a heart attack. Alone in the US about 1.25 million people annually have an AMI. An AMI occurs when arteries leading to the heart become blocked and stop blood flow to the heart. The affected part of the heart does not get oxygen and other nutrients. Without immediate treatment, the affected area dies or is permanently damaged. The sooner the patient is treated the better the outcome.

About Troponin T

Troponin T is a protein found in the heart muscle. The blood levels of troponin T can be used as a specific and sensitive marker for the detection of death of heart-muscle cells. It is used in diagnostics where there is a suspicion of cardiac infarction, unstable angina or chronic heart failure.

About Radiometer Medical

Radiometer is a world leader in the development, manufacture and distribution of technologically advanced acute care testing solutions. Radiometer's products and services simplify and automate all phases of acute care testing, so hospitals can get fast results, reduce workload and the risk of errors, and improve cost effectiveness. Radiometer is part of Danaher Corporation. For further information please visit our website www.radiometer.com

About Roche

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is one of the world's leading research-focused healthcare groups in the fields of pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. As the world's biggest biotech company and an innovator of products and services for the early detection, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, the Group contributes on a broad range of fronts to improving people's health and quality of life. Roche is the world leader in in-vitro diagnostics and drugs for cancer and transplantation, and is a market leader in virology. It is also active in other major therapeutic areas such as autoimmune diseases, inflammatory and metabolic disorders and diseases of the central nervous system. In 2007 sales by the Pharmaceuticals Division totalled 36.8 billion Swiss francs, and the Diagnostics Division posted sales of 9.3 billion francs. Roche has R&D agreements and strategic alliances with numerous partners, including majority ownership interests in Genentech and Chugai, and invested over 8 billion Swiss francs in R&D in 2007. Worldwide, the Group employs about 79,000 people. Additional information is available on the Internet at www.roche.com

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