



Asuragen announces launch of *Inform*TMThyroid Panel in its CAP Accredited CLIA Laboratory

Austin, Texas – April 6, 2011. Asuragen, Inc. announced today the launch of *Inform*TMThyroid, a panel of molecular markers used on Fine Needle Aspirates (FNA) of thyroid nodules to aid physicians in the management of thyroid cancer. The FNAs are analyzed in Asuragen's CAP accredited CLIA Laboratory. The Revised American Thyroid Association Management Guidelines for Patients with Thyroid Nodules and Differentiated Thyroid Cancer has stated, "The use of molecular markers (e.g., BRAF, RAS, RET/PTC, Pax8-PPAR γ) may be considered for patients with indeterminate cytology on FNA to help guide management."

"These molecular markers have been well studied, but have not been routinely used due to the difficulty of developing the technology needed to easily perform these tests on a single FNA sample," commented Matt Winkler, Ph.D., CEO. "At Asuragen our scientists incorporated both the DNA and RNA molecular markers into a multiplexed panel which can be performed with limited sample input from the FNA specimen, and a sample procurement system that makes it easy for physicians to order the *Inform*TMThyroid Panel."

Visit Asuragen's website at www.asuragen.com to learn more about the *Inform*TMThyroid Panel. To order supplies, please call 1-877-772-8018 or email ClinicalLabSupport@asuragen.com.

About Thyroid Cancer

Thyroid nodules are common, with an estimated US prevalence of 10-18 million individuals. Fine Needle Aspirations (FNA) are routinely performed by using a thin needle to collect cells from the nodule, followed by cytological examination of the cells. While the majority of these nodules are benign upon cytology, indeterminate cytology – reported as "follicular neoplasm" or "Hurthle cell neoplasm" – can be found in 15-30% of FNA specimens and carries a 20-30% risk of malignancy, while lesions reported as atypia or follicular lesions of undetermined significance are variably reported and have a 5-10% risk of malignancy. This may lead to hemithyroidectomies of benign nodules, or when post-surgical cytology diagnoses malignancy, second surgeries may be required for total thyroidectomies. The American Thyroid Association has issued Guidelines recommending the use of molecular markers for patients with indeterminate cytology on FNA to help guide management.

About Asuragen

Asuragen is a fully integrated diagnostic development company and pharmaceutical services provider with special capabilities in the area of mRNA and miRNA. The Company's diagnostic product portfolio consists of the first-ever validated microRNA diagnostic assay for pancreatic cancer, quantitative RNA tests for leukemia gene translocations, innovative genetic testing solutions for the fragile X mental retardation (*FMR1*) gene, Signature[®] Oncology products for the qualitative detection of gene translocations and mutations in a variety of hematological and solid tumors, RNA stabilization technologies, and industry-leading controls and standards engineered using its patented Armored RNA[®] technology. Asuragen is empowered with a high level of scientific expertise and assay development capabilities, CLIA and GLP testing services, and an established cGMP manufacturing facility, which allow it to span the spectrum of discovery, testing, production and commercialization for companion diagnostics. More information is available at the Company's website: www.asuragen.com.

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