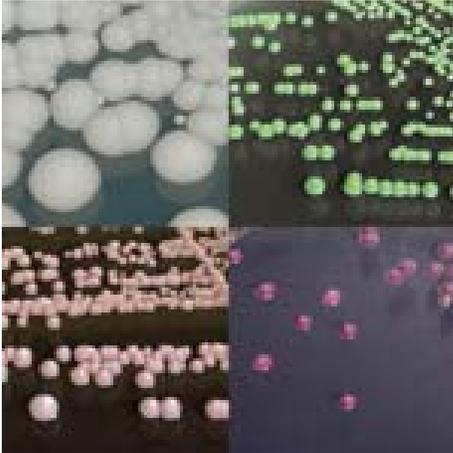


*For Immediate Release:*



February 23, 2009

Jay Hardy, President of Hardy Diagnostics, announces the release of the new culture media product, HardyCHROM™ Candida. This diagnostic product is used in clinical laboratories to assist in the identification of yeast infections, which are becoming more prevalent among patient populations.

Due to the increasing use of antibiotics that are capable of eliminating bacterial infections, many patients are now finding themselves the victims of yeast infections. Many times, when bacteria is killed by antibiotics, an overgrowth of yeast takes over due to the lack of bacterial competition.

Specimens collected from the patient are quickly transported to the lab. There, HardyCHROM™ Candida, a new formula of culture media contained in a petri dish, makes it very easy for the microbiologist to isolate and identify which species of yeast is the culprit. The agent of yeast infection is usually a species of Candida, which is becoming a growing concern among physicians, especially in hospitals.

The Chromogenic substances in the HardyCHROM formula turn the colonies of yeast various colors making it simple for the laboratory technologist to identify the organism and report back to the physician, who will then prescribe appropriate therapy.

HardyCHROM™ Candida represents a significant advance in the identification of yeast due to the shorter period of time it takes to complete the identification and the simplicity of the visual observation, without having to perform further testing.

This medium relies on chromogenic substances and specific enzymes to produce colonies with obvious color and texture differences that are species-specific. HardyCHROM™ Candida is especially useful when working with mixed specimens as it allows a complete, semi-quantitative view of mixed populations of yeasts while inhibiting the majority of

bacterial species. This medium facilitates the recognition of mixed yeast cultures and the identification of *Candida albicans*, *C. tropicalis*, *C. krusei*, and *C. galabrata*.

Hardy Diagnostics plans to market this product to their many hospital clients located throughout the United States.

After nearly a year of intense study of Chromogenic substances, the two researchers, Rene Clasen and Wendy Phillips, at the Hardy Diagnostics lab have released their latest formulation. Rene Clasen is the Director of Technical Services, has a background in public health microbiology and worked for Santa Barbara County for over 20 years. Wendy Phillips, having completed her master's degree in microbiology at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, has supervised the quality control lab at Hardy Diagnostics since 2005.

Hardy Diagnostics is an FDA licensed and ISO certified manufacturer of medical devices for microbiological procedures in clinical and industrial laboratories. Over 5,000 laboratories are serviced by Hardy throughout the nation. Hardy maintains five remote distribution warehouses in other states. Over 2,600 microbiology products are manufactured at the company's headquarters in Santa Maria, where it employs 180 workers. The company was founded in 1980 in Santa Barbara by Jay Hardy and Robert Shibata, two Medical Technologists who completed their laboratory training at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital before starting their culture media manufacturing endeavor.

Attached:

Photo of yeast growing on the HardyCHROM Candida petri plate

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