

PRESS RELEASE

Parasite suspensions for reliable Quality Control results for Clinical, Educational and Proficiency testing



Santa Maria, California, April 9, 2013

Hardy Diagnostics, an FDA licensed and ISO certified biomedical manufacturer, is pleased to announce the release of Parasite Suspensions, a new product designed for a variety of parasitology applications to provide reliable and consistent quality control (QC) results.

Parasite Suspensions are a unique line of microorganism preparations designed to mimic patient samples to support quality assurance programs in documenting process and detection proficiency. Parasite Suspensions can be used for a variety of quality applications, such as in the QC or validation of diagnostic test kits and methods, microscopic examinations, staining procedures, proficiency testing and for teaching purposes in educational settings.

Parasite Suspensions are economical and easy-to-use systems, providing clear and consistent results. They are packaged in a ready-to-use vial containing a 1.0mL preserved suspension of a known parasite species and can be stored at room or refrigerated temperatures for ease and convenience. Parasite Suspensions have a long shelf life and require virtually no end user preparation. They include an individual Certificate of Performance with detailed information

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regarding the specific parasite contents. Parasite Suspensions superior quality is further supported by the distinguished CE mark.

Medical Parasitology is a branch of microbiology involved in the diagnosis, clinical presentation and immunologic response to parasitic infection. Humans play host to hundreds of species of parasitic worms and protozoa, and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that at least one-third of the world's population is infected with some form of intestinal parasite. Currently, there are a number of technologies and methodologies used to diagnose parasitic infections, including immunoassay antigen detection, fecal concentration preparations, wet mount morphological microscopy and permanent stains. However, historical quality control and proficiency testing have involved mainly the use of prepared QC slides, requiring little practical application alongside patient samples. Therefore, Parasite Suspensions pave the way for improved quality assurance with the potential for improved practical experience for key laboratory personnel.

The Parasite Suspensions product line consists of six of the most common parasite species, including *Giardia lamblia*, *Cryptosporidium* spp., *Diphyllobothrium latum*, *Taenia* spp. *Ascaris lumbricoides* and *Strongyloides stercoralis*. Parasite Suspensions provide a known positive control with documented characteristics to support quality assurance programs.

Parasite Suspensions are distributed by Hardy Diagnostics and manufactured by Microbiologics, Inc., a Minnesota based biomedical firm.

ABOUT HARDY DIAGNOSTICS

Hardy Diagnostics, an FDA licensed manufacturer of medical devices for microbiological testing with an ISO 13485 certified Quality Management System, manufactures over 3,500 products for the culture and identification of bacteria and fungi from its California and Ohio manufacturing facilities. Headquartered in Santa Maria, CA, Hardy Diagnostics services over 8,000 laboratories throughout the nation.

The company, which is now employee owned, was founded in 1980 by Jay Hardy, a Clinical Laboratory Scientist from Santa Barbara, CA. Today, Hardy Diagnostics maintains eight distribution centers throughout the U.S. and exports products to over 30 foreign distributors.

The company's mission is to partner with its laboratory customers to prevent and diagnose disease. For more information on products and services and a complete profile on the company's history, visit www.HardyDiagnostics.com.

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