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Correlagen Diagnostics First Commercial Lab in New England to Offer Inexpensive, Reliable Diagnostic Test for Marfan Syndrome

One of three commercial laboratories in the country to conduct test

WALTHAM, MA – July 10, 2008 – Correlagen Diagnostics, Inc., a leading provider of genetic testing services, today announced that it now offers a genetic test for Marfan Syndrome (MFS), an inherited disease that, if left untreated, typically leads to enlargement and, eventually, rupture of the body's main artery, the aorta. The announcement was made at the 24th Annual Conference of the National Marfan Foundation (NMF), being held in Boston now through July 13th. According to the NMF, one in 5,000 people in the United States have Marfan Syndrome. Early diagnosis, especially through this simple blood or saliva test, can lead to life-saving early intervention.

Available to individuals with a family history of MFS or to those who suspect the condition based on symptoms, the Correlagen MFS Sequencing Test requires only a small saliva or blood sample from the patient. Physicians send the sample and the completed medical and insurance forms directly to Correlagen, where the patient's DNA is extracted and analyzed. Correlagen's highly automated testing processes allow for fast, accurate detection of disease-causing mutations in the gene known to be associated with at least 90% of familial MFS. Mutations detected in this gene, FBN1, are evaluated in the context of the current scientific literature, and a comprehensive report is prepared to help a patient's physician understand and explain the results of DNA sequencing to the patient.

The benefits of early diagnosis are significant. Aortic enlargement (dilatation) associated with MFS can be slowed by drug treatment, as long as treatment is started early enough. For example, new research findings suggest that a drug currently used to treat hypertension, for which clinical trials are underway, may be able to prevent MFS-related dilation of the aorta altogether. Until recently, diagnosis has been difficult to achieve based on symptoms alone, so gene testing, that screens for sequence

variation in the gene FBN1, offers a way to diagnose MFS even in very young children and also identify patients to participate in clinical trials.

“In a child or adolescent with only some features of MFS, genetic testing may lead to a definitive diagnosis and we are happy that Correlagen will be added to the diagnostic laboratories offering this service,” said Dr. Josephine Grima, Vice President of Research and Legislative Affairs for the National Marfan Foundation (NMF), the only voluntary health organization for people with Marfan Syndrome and related disorders. “Making the correct diagnosis allows for patients to be followed and on the appropriate treatment plan from a young age.”

In families where the specific genetic defect leading to MFS has been identified, genetic testing offers yet another benefit. Not only can it identify family members who are at increased risk of MFS, but it can also tell family members that they are not at increased risk of MFS, even if they show some of the symptoms - such as tall stature. “It’s hard to overestimate the relief that can come from knowing that the sibling or child of an affected adult is not at increased risk of MFS. Genetic testing can yield this knowledge,” said David Margulies, MD, co-founder and CEO of Correlagen.

To raise awareness of MFS and the importance of early diagnosis for effective management and better outcomes, Correlagen is working with organizations such as the National Marfan Foundation. Patients can get information through MFS Clinical Centers around the country and by contacting the NMF at 800-8-MARFAN or www.Marfan.org.

“Our goal is to make genetic testing services for MFS and other cardiovascular diseases more widely available and convenient to administer for physicians and – for the first time – affordable for patients, even if only partly covered by insurance” said Margulies.

In the genetic testing arena, Correlagen’s “turn-around time” for results is very short, averaging only four weeks. Correlagen also handles all insurance claims on behalf of the patients. Physicians and consumers may request information about the MFS test, as well as information about Correlagen’s

other tests in the fields of cardiology, endocrinology, immunology, and ophthalmology by visiting www.correlagen.com or by calling Correlagen at 866-647-0735.

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About Correlagen Diagnostics, Inc.

Founded in 2003, Correlagen Diagnostics, Inc. is bringing genetic testing to clinical practice in the fields of cardiology, endocrinology, immunology and ophthalmology. Correlagen uses a high throughput automated approach to its testing services that incorporates sequencing, variant analysis, and results reporting. To learn more, visit www.correlagen.com or call 866-647-0735.