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Precision breast panel analysis with the Ventana VIAS Image Analysis System

Ventana Medical Systems, Inc., the leading provider of automated image analysis tools for breast panel interpretation, announced today that the CAP HQIP-B 2009 Survey for laboratory proficiency testing of HER2/*neu* showed the Ventana VIAS image analysis system as the first choice of labs around the country. In the recent CAP survey the VIAS was used for automated image analysis of HER2/*neu* by 46% of laboratory sites using automated analysis.

As pathologists become more involved in generating information that directly impacts treatment decisions as part of the personalized medicine model, there is an increasing need for advanced laboratory tools that go beyond traditional methods and diagnostics. The VIAS system is an automated system that can assist the pathologist in the assessment of breast cancer protein markers such as HER-2/*neu*, ER, PR, p-53, and Ki67. After the primary diagnosis is made, the pathologist can choose to utilize the VIAS system to quantify the level of estrogen receptor, progesterone receptor or HER2 protein objectively via computerized algorithms rather than relying solely on subjective assessment, which can vary between observers of different skill levels.

Ventana Medical Systems is committed to providing innovative solutions for digital pathology and image analysis as part of their product offering for hospitals and laboratories throughout the country. The Sierra Medical Center in El Paso, Texas started utilizing the image analysis system in 2008, and has seen its tremendous value for the past couple of years in allowing pathologists to detect and classify cancerous cells more quickly. “The VIAS image analysis system improves the accuracy of immunohistochemistry testing and provides reproducible results when interrupting breast cancer cases,” says pathologist Dr. Judith Pester, Pathologist at Sierra Medical Center. “VIAS has been instrumental in providing us with more accurate test results and ensuring that patients receive appropriate treatment of their breast carcinoma.”

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About CAP Proficiency Testing

The College of American Pathologists (CAP) Surveys program is the largest external quality assessment program in the world. As such, it provides an unparalleled selection of challenges and offers the largest database in existence for interlaboratory comparison. The CAP has accumulated significant experience in managing this type of program and is knowledgeable in its uses and limitations. www.cap.org

About Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.

Ventana develops, manufactures, and markets instrument/reagent systems that automate tissue preparation and slide staining in clinical histology and drug discovery laboratories worldwide. The Company's clinical systems are important tools used in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and infectious diseases. Ventana drug discovery systems are used to accelerate the discovery of new drug targets and evaluate the safety of new drug compounds. In addition, the Company offers premier workflow solutions designed to improve laboratory efficiency, providing safeguards to enhance the quality of healthcare. Ventana is a wholly owned member of the Roche Group. For more information on Ventana Medical Systems, Inc. visit www.ventanamed.com.

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