



## Ventana Young Scientist's Day gives local students hands-on experience in high-tech cancer diagnostics

TUCSON, Ariz., April 24, 2013 – On May 1, 2013, [Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.](#) (Ventana), a member of the [Roche Group](#), will host 80 local high school students and teachers from Tucson's PPEP Tech, University High School and Sonoran Science Academy for its sixth annual Young Scientist's Day. To inspire interest in science and technology, the event offers participants the opportunity to share in the Ventana mission – to improve the lives of all patients afflicted with cancer – and to learn first-hand how their classroom education applies within the high-tech field of cancer diagnostics.

Established in 2008, the annual Ventana Young Scientist's Day is a unique science immersion experience that aims to enlighten and encourage young students to pursue careers in science, engineering, and technology.

During Young Scientist's Day, students spend six hours at the Ventana campus rotating through hands-on learning stations within manufacturing, biology, chemistry, histology, slide review, and engineering, taught by Ventana pathologists, scientists, and engineers. Students will engage in the process of preparing tissue for clinical diagnostics; analyze cells under high powered, multi-headed microscopes; visualize how engineering principles can apply in the design, assembly and testing of reagent dispensers; and explore the utility of immunohistochemistry (IHC) as a tool for cancer diagnostics. In addition, Ventana



mechanical and electrical engineers will demonstrate how fundamental engineering concepts apply in the cutting-edge field of histological process automation on VENTANA instruments.

*“Ventana welcomes the opportunity to work with educators to raise students’ appreciation of the impact that innovations in science and technology have on our lives,”* said Mara G. Aspinnall, President of Ventana Medical Systems, Inc. *“Every year, Young Scientist’s Day offers our community’s talented young people unique insight into the range of possible careers open to them when they pursue a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) curriculum.”*

Educators who’ve participated in past years are enthusiastic about the program:

*“I cannot imagine a better experience for our students, all of whom are not only science students, but students with a clear interest in going on to work in careers in science and technology,”* said Lisa Wood, Science Teacher, Pusch Ridge Christian Academy.

*“The entire staff was absolutely wonderful. The hands-on activities that they had created for the kids were great, and they answered questions and interacted with the kids so well! It is such a valuable experience for the kids to see the cutting edge science out there in the real world. They so rarely get exposed to what science careers are like,”* said NJ Utter, Director of College Readiness, Sunnyside School District.

Young Scientist’s Day is from 8 AM to 3 PM. To round out the day, the **Los Diablitos de Sunnyside Mariachi Band** will perform for Ventana employees in the Stain Street Café from 11-12:30 PM.

### **About Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.**

[Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.](#) (“VMSI”) (SIX: RO, ROG; OTCQX: RHHBY), a member of the [Roche](#) Group, innovates and manufactures instruments and reagents that automate tissue processing and slide staining for cancer diagnostics. VENTANA solutions are used in clinical histology and drug development

research laboratories worldwide. The company's intuitive, integrated staining, workflow management platforms, and digital pathology solutions optimize laboratory efficiencies to reduce errors, support diagnosis and inform treatment decisions for anatomic pathology professionals. Together with Roche, VMSI is driving [Personalized Healthcare](#) through accelerated drug discovery and the development of “companion diagnostics” to identify the patients most likely to respond favorably to specific therapies.

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