



**chromID™ MRSA Launched in U.S.  
bioMérieux Adds Methicillin-resistant  
*Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) Screening Tool to its Arsenal**

*Chromogenic media provides cost-effective MRSA identification  
for hospitals and labs*

Durham, N.C. (USA) – October 28, 2009 – bioMérieux, a world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics, today announced the U.S. launch of chromID™ MRSA, a simple and cost-effective solution in the struggle against MRSA. The product recently received FDA 510(k) clearance for the detection of MRSA, one of the most pervasive sources for high-morbidity healthcare-associated infections (HAI) in U.S. hospitals.<sup>1</sup> The current national debate on escalating healthcare costs includes screening for multi-drug resistant bacteria, such as MRSA. chromID MRSA is perfectly adapted for general screening processes in healthcare institutions as it economically provides unambiguous results with a simple protocol. The presence of MRSA is visually identified by green colored colonies on chromID MRSA chromogenic media after a 24-hour incubation period.

“According to CDC data, invasive MRSA infections occur in approximately 94,000 people annually and cause as many as 9,000 deaths per year,” said Herb Steward, general manager and executive vice president, bioMérieux North America. “Helping healthcare facilities to cost-effectively detect antibiotic-resistant strains with improved accuracy can play a critical role in the bigger picture of decreasing MRSA-related nosocomial infections,” said Steward.

As a leader in Microbiology, it is bioMérieux's objective to provide customers with the most flexible and complete solution to effectively manage MRSA, spanning manual and automated techniques, from culture-based methods to molecular biology. A more comprehensive approach to containing MRSA needs to be taken, involving critical functions such as resistance detection, organism strain typing for outbreak investigations, hygiene, and antibiotic stewardship programs.

“We applaud organizations like bioMérieux for playing a key role on World MRSA Day and for bringing cost-effective solutions to our healthcare facilities,” said Jeanine Thomas, MRSA survivor and founder of the MRSA Survivors Network. Thomas recently hosted the Inaugural World MRSA Day with a remembrance ceremony for those who have lost their lives or suffered from this preventable disease. Thomas added, “MRSA survivors, their families, and all those touched by this disease finally had their day and their voices heard.”

A recent study published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* examined the hospital and societal costs of antimicrobial-resistant infections (ARIs) in a Chicago teaching hospital. Nearly half (43%) of the patients with antibiotic-resistant infections in the study had an infection due to MRSA.<sup>2</sup> The paper also discussed the need for a more comprehensive evaluation of the cost of resistance and the potential economic benefits of prevention programs like antibiotic stewardship.

chromID MRSA simplifies the detection of MRSA, enabling more economical implementation of adapted prevention measures. chromID MRSA agar is a selective and differential chromogenic medium for the qualitative detection of nasal colonization of methicillin-resistant *S. aureus*. bioMérieux's chromID MRSA has been widely adopted throughout Europe over the past few years, leading to more than two dozen publications in peer-reviewed journals and international conferences.

## References:

<sup>1</sup> Marchaim D. et al. The burden of methicillin-resistance *Staphylococcus aureus* infections on patients hospitalized in the US. 46<sup>th</sup> ICAAC meeting, San Francisco (USA), September 28, 2006 Abstract K-791

<sup>2</sup> Roberts R. et al. Hospital and Societal Costs of Antimicrobial-Resistant Infections in a Chicago Teaching Hospital: Implications for Antibiotic Stewardship. CID 2009:49 (15 October)

## About MRSA Survivors Network

MRSA Survivors Network is a nonprofit organization comprised of volunteers dedicated to raising awareness for MRSA, campaigning for change, and giving vital support to those who have been afflicted with MRSA or lost loved ones.

MRSA Survivors Network was founded in 2003 by Jeanine Thomas, a survivor of MRSA, sepsis osteomyelitis, and *C. difficile*. She became critically ill and nearly died from ankle surgery. Because of her experience, she has dedicated herself to raise awareness, campaign for new laws, and give support to those whose lives have been affected by MRSA.

Jeanine Thomas was the first patient advocate in the U.S. to raise alarm about MRSA and healthcare-acquired infections. MRSA Survivors Network has initiated groundbreaking legislation in the state of Illinois and works with other advocates in other states and on a federal level. MRSA Survivors Network partners with advocates in the UK and other countries to formulate global alliances to raise awareness for MRSA and antimicrobial resistance.

## About bioMérieux

### Advancing Diagnostics to Improve Public Health

A world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics for 45 years, bioMérieux is present in more than 150 countries through 39 subsidiaries and a large network of distributors. In 2008, revenues reached €1.111 billion with 84% of sales outside of France.

bioMérieux provides diagnostic solutions (reagents, instruments, software) which determine the source of disease and contamination to improve patient health and ensure consumer safety. Its products are used for diagnosing infectious diseases and providing high medical value results for cancer screening and monitoring and cardiovascular emergencies. They are also used for detecting microorganisms in agri-food, pharmaceutical, and cosmetic products. bioMérieux is listed on the NYSE Euronext Paris market (Code: BIM – Code ISIN: FR0010096479). Other information can be found at [www.biomerieux.com](http://www.biomerieux.com).

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