



bioMérieux Launches a Molecular Diagnostic MRSA Test on its EasyQ[®] Automated Platform

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is the most prevalent multi-drug resistant bacteria and a growing threat to health

Marcy l'Etoile, France, November 6, 2009 — bioMérieux, a world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics, today launched NucliSENS EasyQ[®] MRSA, a new automated test for Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), one of the leading causes of healthcare-associated infections. NucliSENS EasyQ MRSA is CE marked and bioMérieux will be submitting for 510(k) approval with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the first half of 2010.

“bioMérieux is actively driving the fight against healthcare-associated infections by getting the right information to clinicians rapidly with our molecular solution EasyQ MRSA. bioMérieux is now the diagnostics company with the most comprehensive MRSA product offering in the world,” said Stéphane Bancel, bioMérieux Chief Executive Officer. “At a time when reducing healthcare costs is paramount, we are proud to bring an automated molecular test that we are launching at an attractive price. More molecular tests for resistant bacteria, like VRE and *C. difficile*, will be launched in the future on our EasyQ platform.”

The incidence of MRSA, the most prevalent multi-drug resistant bacteria, has been rising steadily over the past decade worldwide and is now found in the community. In some countries, more than 60% of *S. aureus* cases in hospital intensive care units are now resistant not only to methicillin but also to other first-line antibiotics.¹

Studies have shown that the frequency of MRSA transmission is reduced 38-fold if patients are identified and isolated.² Systematic infection control measures, including MRSA screening reduces the MRSA rate by 50%.³ NucliSENS EasyQ MRSA is based on bioMérieux's proprietary technologies, which allows the company to offer it at an attractive cost, contributing to the reduction of healthcare expenditures. It complements chromID[™] MRSA, bioMérieux's chromogenic media, which enables direct, color-specific visual observation of the bacterial colonies in patient samples. With these two products, bioMérieux now offers hospitals and healthcare providers cost-effective alternatives for all patient situations: emergency and routine.

NucliSENS EasyQ MRSA detects 7 MRSA types⁴, covering the most prevalent strains. The simultaneous detection of two targets, reducing the risk of a falsely positive result, improves its specificity and avoids re-testing, inappropriate antibiotic treatment and isolation of patients. The test provides rapid results, with a turnaround time of under three hours and the flexibility of being used for batch (46 tests) or stand-alone (1 test) screening.

This product launch is part of bioMérieux's long-standing commitment to the fight against bacterial resistance. bioMérieux recently funded with the U.S. CDC, a new study⁵ on the economic impact of antibiotic overuse and antibiotic-resistant infections on the U.S. healthcare system by the Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA). bioMérieux also gathers leading experts at its biennial World Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI) Forum as well as at regional symposia in countries around the world.

- 1) Laxminarayan, R., A. Malani. Extending the Cure: Policy responses to the growing threat of antibiotic resistance. Washington, DC, Resources for the Future 2007.
- 2) Vriens MR et al. Is methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* more contagious than methicillin-susceptible *S. aureus* in a surgical intensive care unit ? *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 2002; 23:491-494
- 3) Harbarth S et al. Effect of delayed infection control measures on a hospital outbreak of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. *J Hosp Infect* 2000; 46:43-49
- 4) MREJ types 1,2,3,4,5,7 and 12
- 5) Roberts RR, Hota B, Ahmad I, Scott RD 2nd, Foster SD, Abbasi F, Schabowski S, Kampe LM, Ciavarella GG, Supino M, Naples J, Cordell R, Levy SB, Weinstein RA. "Hospital and Societal Costs of Antimicrobial Resistant Infections in a Chicago Teaching Hospital: Implications for Antibiotic Stewardship". *Clin Infect Dis*. 2009 Oct 15;49(8):1175-84.

About bioMérieux

Advancing diagnostics to improve public health

A world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics for over 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. Our 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 (Symbol: BIM – ISIN: FR0010096479). Other information can be found at www.biomerieux.com and www.biomerieux.com/hai-resistance

Contacts

Investor Relations

bioMérieux

Isabelle Tongio
Tel: + 33 (0)4 78 87 22 37
investor.relations@eu.biomerieux.com

LT Value

Nancy Levain
Tel: +33 (0)1 44 50 39 30
nancy.levain@ltvalue.com

Press Relations

bioMérieux

Koren Wolman-Tardy
Tel: + 33 (0)4 78 87 20 08
media@eu.biomerieux.com

Image Sept

Tiphaine Hecketsweiler
Tel: + 33 (0)1 53 70 74 59
thecketsweiler@image7.fr

Fleishman Hillard

Tim Baker
Tel: + 1 216-338-8086
Tim.Baker@fleishman.com

Laurence Heilbronn
Tel: + 33 (0)1 53 70 74 64
lheilbronn@image7.fr