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SANDHILL SCIENTIFIC OPTIONS CU DIAGNOSTIC DEVICE FOR ESOPHAGEAL DISEASE
Optioned technology is a minimally-invasive means of diagnosing acid reflux and other
esophageal diseases

AURORA, Colo. – June 21, 2010 – A diagnostic device developed at the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine and the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine was recently optioned by Sandhill Scientific, Inc., a Colorado-based company developing diagnostic devices for a variety of gastrointestinal illnesses.

Diagnosing inflammatory conditions of the gastrointestinal tract such as severe gastroesophageal reflux (GERD), eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), and a number of other diseases can be difficult. Blood, stool and x-ray tests are not sufficient to diagnose any of these conditions definitively, or to differentiate them, and more invasive methods such as endoscopy are costly and carry potential complications. The optioned technology provides a less invasive way for doctors to determine the cause and appropriate treatment of esophageal inflammation. The technology, which was developed by Dr. Glenn T. Furuta (an associate professor of pediatrics at UC Denver, The Children's Hospital and National Jewish Health) and Dr. Steven J. Ackerman (a professor of biochemistry & molecular genetics and medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago) is an inert capsule that is swallowed, deploying a line into the esophagus. The line binds relevant diagnostic markers that can be measured using standard laboratory techniques. Development of this technology was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health, American Gastroenterological Association and the Campaign Urging Research on Eosinophilic Diseases (CURED).

“This device could greatly improve a physician’s ability to diagnose GERD and EoE patients, in particular pediatric patients, since this procedure is far less invasive than the existing techniques,” said David Poticha, Senior Licensing Manager at the University of Colorado Technology Transfer Office. “The university is excited to partner for the development of this device with a local company of Sandhill’s reputation; we feel they are perfectly situated to bring this simple but elegant new device to market.”

“Knowledge of the epidemiology and manifestations of EoE has grown markedly in the past few years, and scientific evidence clearly emphasizes the importance of EoE diagnosis, treatment and post-treatment serial monitoring for recurrence,” added Jerry E. Mabary, Vice President of Sandhill Scientific. “These diagnostic requirements demand more accurate, minimally invasive diagnostic tools. We are optimistic that innovative, paradigm-shifting diagnostic capabilities can be attained by virtue of this product development effort.”

About Sandhill Scientific, Inc.

Sandhill Scientific, Inc is a private corporation which develops, manufactures and markets a series of gastrointestinal diagnostic devices. Founded in 1981, Sandhill Scientific, Inc product technologies include leading edge patented products for diagnosis of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) and esophageal motility disorders. Sandhill is the worldwide technology leader for non-endoscopic esophageal diagnostics with world headquarters located in Highlands Ranch, Colo., manufacturing in Prague, Czech Republic and administrative offices in Eynsham, UK.

About the University of Colorado

The CU Technology Transfer Office (TTO) pursues, protects, packages, and licenses to business the intellectual property generated from research at CU. The TTO provides assistance to faculty, staff, and students, as well as to businesses looking to license or invest in CU technology. For more information about technology transfer at CU, visit www.cu.edu/techtransfer.

The University of Colorado is a premier public research university with four campuses: the University of Colorado at Boulder, the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, the University of Colorado Denver and the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. More than 56,000 students are pursuing academic degrees at CU. The National Science Foundation ranks CU seventh among public institutions in federal research expenditures in engineering and science. Academic prestige is marked by the university’s four Nobel laureates, seven MacArthur “genius” Fellows, 18 alumni astronauts and 19 Rhodes Scholars. For more information about the entire CU system, and to access campus resources, go to www.cu.edu.

About the University of Illinois at Chicago

The UIC Office of Technology Management’s (OTM) mission is to encourage innovation, enhance research and facilitate economic development through the effective management, transfer, and commercialization of University-based technologies and intellectual property. For more information about the OTM at UIC, visit www.otm.uic.edu.

UIC ranks among the nation's leading research universities and is Chicago's largest university with 26,000 students, 12,000 faculty and staff, 15 colleges and the state's major public medical center. A hallmark of the campus is the Great Cities Commitment, through which UIC faculty, students and staff engage with community, corporate, foundation and government partners in hundreds of programs to improve the quality of life in metropolitan areas around the world. For more information about UIC, visit www.uic.edu.