

Pleasanton, 16, December 2014

## **Roche launches PCR molecular diagnostic system for point of care environment**

*The **cobas**<sup>®</sup> Liat System is the only FDA cleared molecular diagnostic platform to offer real-time PCR results in 20 minutes or less*

Roche (SIX: RO, ROG; OTCQX: RHHBY) today announced the launch of the **cobas**<sup>®</sup> Liat System—a fast, compact, easy to use, molecular diagnostic platform, designed for on-demand testing in physician clinics, pharmacies and hospital lab settings. The system includes the **cobas**<sup>®</sup> Liat Analyzer and a growing portfolio of assays, including the **cobas**<sup>®</sup> Influenza A/B and **cobas**<sup>®</sup> Strep A nucleic acid tests.

Utilizing Nobel prize winning polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology, the **cobas**<sup>®</sup> Liat System, fully automates the testing process, simplifies workflow and enables healthcare professionals to perform molecular testing in a variety of settings with speed, reliability and minimal training. Definitive results are generated in 20 minutes or less to aid a treatment decision.

“The **cobas**<sup>®</sup> Liat System, enables us to extend the reach of PCR technology,” said Paul Brown, Head of Roche Molecular Diagnostics. “This system offers significant benefits in testing time and accuracy, over current methods used to diagnose infectious disease within the physician office or urgent care clinic. It eliminates the need for time-consuming confirmatory testing and can provide critical answers to both the healthcare professional and patient during a consultation.”

The portfolio is available in the U.S. and within Europe. The analyzer and two initial assays, **cobas**<sup>®</sup> Influenza A/B and **cobas**<sup>®</sup> Strep A, are both CE Marked and FDA cleared.

\*The **cobas**<sup>®</sup> Liat System is not currently CLIA waived in the United States and testing sites outside the clinical laboratory are not available in all markets.

### **About the **cobas**<sup>®</sup> Liat assays**

The **cobas**<sup>®</sup> Strep A and **cobas**<sup>®</sup> Influenza A and B tests offer outstanding sensitivity, aiding healthcare professionals to make immediate, informed treatment decisions in a variety of testing locations. Utilizing polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology, the **cobas**<sup>®</sup> Influenza A/B test can be used in the differential diagnosis of Influenza A virus and Influenza B virus RNA, or in the detection of Strep A DNA with **cobas**<sup>®</sup> Strep A, in 20 minutes or less. Additionally, the **cobas**<sup>®</sup> Influenza A and B test covers over 30 commonly found strains of Influenza A and B. More information is available at [www.cobasliat.com](http://www.cobasliat.com) or [go.roche.com/cobasliat](http://go.roche.com/cobasliat).

### **About Influenza A and B (Flu)**

Influenza is an acute respiratory illness caused by infection with the Influenza virus. Influenza viruses consist of three types: Influenza A, Influenza B and Influenza C. In the U.S., Influenza A/H1N1, A/H3N2 and Influenza B are the predominant seasonal viruses. Influenza A and B viruses are among the leading causes of respiratory infections, estimated to affect 5-10% of adults and 20-30% of children every year worldwide. Influenza is primarily spread by breathing in infected droplets formed when a person with the flu sneezes, coughs, or talks. Symptoms include fever, cough, headache, fatigue, muscle pain, sore throat, and runny nose. Older people, young children, and people with weakened immune systems or chronic medical conditions can be at high risk for serious disease. Each year, approximately 3 to 5 million people develop severe illness and 250,000 to 500,000 people die from the flu.<sup>1</sup>

### **About Strep A**

*Streptococcus pyogenes* (Strep A) is a ubiquitous pathogen that causes a wide range of human infections, including pharyngitis, sinusitis, lymphadenitis, pyoderma, endocarditis, meningitis, septicemia, tonsillitis, impetigo, and upper respiratory tract infections. Strep A is capable of initiating two nonsuppurative complications – acute rheumatic fever and post-streptococcal acute glomerulonephritis – which can have severe negative consequences on the health and well-being of infected patients. Accurate diagnosis of acute infection is necessary to properly treat the disease using appropriate antibiotic therapy. If left untreated, Strep A infections can lead to other serious, sometimes life-threatening conditions, including rheumatic fever, scarlet fever, peritonsillar abscess, necrotizing fasciitis, and streptococcal toxic shock syndrome.

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. Influenza (Seasonal) Fact Sheet No 211. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs211/en/>. Accessed 25 Sep 2014.



## **About Roche**

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is a leader in research-focused healthcare with combined strengths in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. Roche is the world's largest biotech company, with truly differentiated medicines in oncology, immunology, infectious diseases, ophthalmology and neuroscience. Roche is also the world leader in in vitro diagnostics and tissue-based cancer diagnostics, and a frontrunner in diabetes management. Roche's personalised healthcare strategy aims at providing medicines and diagnostics that enable tangible improvements in the health, quality of life and survival of patients. Founded in 1896, Roche has been making important contributions to global health for more than a century. Twenty-four medicines developed by Roche are included in the World Health Organisation Model Lists of Essential Medicines, among them life-saving antibiotics, antimalarials and chemotherapy.

In 2013 the Roche Group employed over 85,000 people worldwide, invested 8.7 billion Swiss francs in R&D and posted sales of 46.8 billion Swiss francs. Genentech, in the United States, is a wholly owned member of the Roche Group. Roche is the majority shareholder in Chugai Pharmaceutical, Japan. For more information, please visit [www.roche.com](http://www.roche.com).

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