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Pronostics' revolutionary diagnostic product makes 'Healthcare Oscars' final

CADprint, a ground-breaking test for heart disease, under development by Cambridge diagnostics company Pronostics Limited, reaches the final of the Medical Futures Innovation Awards, dubbed the 'Healthcare Oscars' by the national press.

Pronostics' revolutionary diagnostic test for heart disease, called CADprint, will take its place in the final for the prestigious national 2007 Medical Futures Innovation Awards to be held in London during March. Recognising excellence in medical technology a Medical Futures Innovation Award is the UK's most sought after healthcare accolade, and they have become known as the "Healthcare Oscars".

"We are delighted to see CADprint recognised on the national stage in this way" said Robert Booth, CEO of Pronostics. "Our product is the first of a revolutionary new class of medical diagnostics, 'pronostics', based on biological profiling, which will change the way a wide range of diseases are diagnosed in the future."

Pronostics develops new medical diagnostics based on the principle of "multiplexing" – carrying out many tests in the same tube at the same time. In the CADprint product, thousands of simultaneous tests are used to generate a profile of a patient's immune system. Sophisticated pattern recognition software then searches the resulting profile for the tell-tale signature of heart disease. CADprint is the first diagnostic test worldwide based on this principle of profiling the immune system.

"We have always known that CADprint had massive potential." said Dr David Grainger, CSO of Pronostics. "But the Innovation Awards are going to bring that awareness to a much wider audience sooner. If CADprint continues to work as well as it has in our early studies it will revolutionise the way heart disease is diagnosed."

CADprint is currently being tested at hospitals nationwide as part of Pronostics' PUMA clinical trial, involving more than a thousand patients thought to have heart

problems. Pronostics expect the commercial launch of the product to take place in the middle of next year, following completion of the PUMA trial.

“Although the scientific principles behind the test are quite complicated.” said Dr David Mosedale, Vice-President of R&D at Pronostics and one of the scientists who developed the technology on which CADprint is based, “the product is very simple to use. All that is required is a simple blood sample, and within hours a reliable diagnosis of the patient’s condition can be made available to the doctor. Some of the current diagnostic tests, such as angiography, are invasive and can cause problems for the patient who has to have a special dye injected into the blood vessels of their heart. We expect CADprint to deliver the same diagnosis, but because it is an *in vitro* diagnostic procedure there is no risk to the patient.”

The ideas behind CADprint have been around for almost a decade, and were featured in local and national print and broadcast media when scientists at Cambridge University’s Department of Medicine, published the first successful demonstration of a profiling diagnostic for heart disease in the leading science journal *Nature Medicine* in 2002. More than five years of hard work by Pronostics is now on the verge of translating the test from the scientific laboratory to the routine hospital clinic.

The twelve finalists for the cardiovascular section of the Medical Futures Innovation Award will present their products to the judges, who include pioneering heart transplant surgeon Sir Magdi Yacoub, in London during March. The winner will be announced in June.

Notes for Editors

1. Pronostics Ltd is a world-leader in low-cost, robust multiplexing technologies. It has granted European patents protecting its UltraPlex™ platform, which underpins its range of multiplexed diagnostic kits, the first of which has recently been launched. Founded in 2001 as SmartBead Technologies Ltd, the company merged with FingerPrint Diagnostics Ltd in summer 2006. The merged company is rapidly developing a wide range of diagnostic products, of which CADprint will be the first of the new generation of profiling diagnostics to reach the market. The company is based at the Babraham Biosciences Campus, Cambridge U.K. www.pro-nostics.com

2. The PUMA clinical trial is being run on behalf of Pronostics Ltd by the Contract Research Organisation Total Scientific Ltd. Approximately 1,000 patients with suspected heart disease are being recruited at hospitals around the UK, and the diagnosis obtained with CADprint is being compared with existing methods such as angiography. Recruitment is expected to be completed in December 2007, and the results will be published in early 2008 to support the expected commercial launch of the CADprint product, following regulatory approval, in the summer of 2008. www.pumastudy.org.uk

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