

Genetic Signatures achieves first sales of EasyScreen[™] Respiratory Virus Detection Kit

Sydney, Australia 11 March 2015: Genetic Signatures has expanded its product range with the introduction and first sales of the *EasyScreen*[™] **Respiratory Virus Detection Kit** that simultaneously identifies 15 of the most common respiratory infections.

The *EasyScreen*[™] Respiratory Virus Detection Kit detects multiple viral gene targets allowing rapid screening of a large number of viral pathogens. The multiplex assay is initially available in research use form.

According to the World Health Organisation, respiratory viral infections kill an estimated 3.9 million people per year and are one of the top five causes of mortality worldwide particularly in children, the elderly and immunocompromised persons. In addition to increasing the risk of secondary bacterial infections, respiratory viruses cause an enormous burden to health systems by way of direct medical expenses and indirect productivity losses¹. Rapid identification of viral respiratory infections is critical in initiating antiviral treatment and limiting the spread of the infection.

Genetic Signatures' CEO Dr. John Melki said: "The *EasyScreen*™ Respiratory Virus Detection Kit provides an efficient and comprehensive system for the daily screening of patient samples. This solution can be integrated into *EasyScreen*™ workflows already in place in multiple pathology laboratories around Australia.

"The introduction of this product will contribute to ongoing growth of our strong domestic base, as we continue expansion into European and US markets. Our 3base™ technology continues to support the goal of accurately screening for a wide array of infectious pathogens, thereby saving time, money and lives in the process."

For further information, see our website (<u>www.geneticsignatures.com</u>) or contact us as below:

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About Genetic Signatures: Genetic Signatures is a specialist molecular diagnostics (MDx) company focused on the development and commercialisation of its proprietary platform technology, 3Base[™]. Founded in 2001 by the late Dr Geoffrey Grigg, the former Chief of Molecular Biology at CSIRO, Genetic Signatures has released a suite of real-time PCR based products for the routine detection of infectious diseases under the EasyScreen[™] brand. Molecular diagnostics (MDx) is a modern

¹ World Health Organisation (2015), Battle against Respiratory Viruses (BRaVe) initiative, http://www.who.int/influenza/patient_care/clinical/brave/en/

technique increasingly used by hospitals and pathology laboratories to detect specific sequences of the genome, the DNA or RNA that define an organism.

Genetic Signatures' proprietary MDx 3Base[™] platform technology provides high-volume hospital and pathology laboratories the ability to screen for a wide array of infectious pathogens, with a high degree of specificity, in a rapid throughput (time-to-result) environment.

Genetic Signatures' current target markets are major hospital and pathology laboratories undertaking infectious disease screening. As the spread of infectious diseases around the world continues to grow, the Company plans to launch additional products for the detection of pathogens associated with MRSA, sexual health infections, tuberculosis and meningitis.