

## Genetic Signatures expands into multiple European countries for its infectious disease detection products

- Further expansion for *EasyScreen™* Pathogen Detection products
- Distribution deals signed for Ireland and Poland
- Agreements support Genetic Signatures' strategy of global market penetration and increased market share

**Sydney, Australia, 13 August 2015:** Molecular diagnostics company Genetic Signatures (ASX: GSS) has announced that it has signed distribution deals for Ireland and Poland, further expanding the market reach for its *EasyScreen™* Products.

Medical Supply Company Ltd. (MSC) will distribute Genetic Signatures' products in Ireland and Northern Ireland (Population: 6.5 million<sup>1,2</sup>) and ARGENTA has been appointed distributor for Poland (Population: 38 million<sup>3</sup>). Products covered by the deals include distribution of Genetic Signatures' *EasyScreen™* Sample Processing and Pathogen Detection Kits and the GS1 automation platform.

The company already offers its *EasyScreen*<sup>™</sup> Sample Processing and Pathogen Detection Kits and the GS1 automation platform in Israel (Population: 8.3 million<sup>4</sup>) via ADVANSYS and in Italy (Population: 59.7 million<sup>5</sup>) via Astra Formedic s.r.l, through distribution agreements.

Genetic Signatures' Chief Executive Officer, John Melki PhD said: "These new distribution agreements support our strategy of global market penetration and increased market share. Our CE-IVD markings enable our products to be sold freely in all European Union Member States, removing any regulatory hurdles. The expanded distributor network now allows us to service a European population that is five times that of our Australian population. We will continue to appoint distributors in further jurisdictions in the expectation of significant growth in Europe."

MSC's Managing Director Eimear Scully said: "We are pleased to add the *EasyScreen*™ products to our portfolio. Molecular Diagnostics represents a significant market opportunity, where gastroenteritis alone is estimated to affect an estimated 8800 people every day in Ireland<sup>5</sup>. The *EasyScreen*™ products have already received very positive feedback from our Key Opinion Leaders in this field. We are excited to undertake our first product evaluations with customers at the end of August." ARGENTA's Chief Executive Officer Sławomir Gnalicki said: "The continued spread of infectious diseases requires new technologies to improve diagnostics and, ultimately,

 $<sup>^{5}\</sup> http://www.irishhealth.com/article.html?id=5262$ 



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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://dfat.gov.au/geo/ireland/pages/ireland-country-brief.aspx

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/default.asp10.htm

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> http://dfat.gov.au/geo/poland/pages/poland-country-brief.aspx

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> http://dfat.gov.au/geo/italy/pages/italy-country-brief.aspx

medical treatment. The *EasyScreen*<sup>™</sup> range enhances our ability to offer our customers access to rapid and accurate screening for infectious pathogens. The Polish Prospective Healthcare Utilization Survey has concluded that the prevention of hospital transmission of acute gastrointestinal (AGI) pathogens and understanding the relative burden of the different AGI pathogens may lead to substantial healthcare savings in Poland <sup>6</sup>. We anticipate strong interest in the Genetic Signatures gastroenteritis screening kits."

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

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**About Genetic Signatures Limited:** 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 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) based products for the routine detection of infectious diseases under the *EasyScreen*™ brand. MDx is a modern 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*<sup>™</sup> platform technology provides highvolume 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 (timeto-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.

**About Medical Supply Company Ltd.:** Medical Supply Co. Ltd (MSC) was founded in Dublin, Ireland in 1971, and is a supplier of laboratory reagents and instrumentation to hospitals, universities, technological institutes, veterinary practices, industrial and pharmaceutical companies throughout Ireland. Their ever-increasing product range is regularly reviewed to ensure they meet the changing needs of their customers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Czech M. et al., Costs of Medically Attended Acute Gastrointestinal Infections: The Polish Prospective Healthcare Utilization Survey. *Value in Health Regional Issues*, Volume 2, Issue 2, September–October 2013, Pages 210-217.

**About ARGENTA:** ARGENTA's core business is the sale of microbiological diagnostic reagents, automated diagnostic systems and laboratory equipment. ARGENTA's product range includes microbiological media in various forms, confirmatory tests, antibiotic discs, diagnostics and laboratory equipment. ARGENTA puts a strong emphasis on sales support, has substantive knowledge in the field of clinical microbiology and a large and professional team of regional representatives.