



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact

Gabriela Franco

Director of Marketing

(800) 216-4016

Gabriela.franco@copanusa.net

Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program Announces Decision to Acquire COPAN's WASPLab, the Next Generation Full Laboratory Automation and Digital Bacteriology System

Murrieta, CA, September 3rd, 2013 – The Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program, one of the largest lab networks in Canada, serving more than 1.4 million residents across the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (HNHB LHIN), announced today the decision to purchase COPAN's WASPLab, the latest generation of full laboratory automation and digital microbiology system. Installation is scheduled for the last quarter of 2013 at Hamilton General Hospital.

"After a thorough due diligence process reviewing different commercially available options for full lab automation, we are pleased to announce our decision to purchase WASPLab. Our goal in moving to full lab automation is to ensure patients in our area have access to excellent, timely and effective care. With the decreased turnaround times, our clinicians are excited about the positive impact WASPLab will have in enhancing patient care, antibiotic stewardship and infection control management," said David Langstaff, Executive Director of the Laboratory Medicine Network.

With the purchase of WASPLab, microbiology testing from Joseph Brant Hospital and the Niagara Health System will be redirected to Hamilton as part of a Regional

Microbiology Service. The move will maintain and improve the quality of patient care, reduce turnaround times and improve access to technology and state of the art testing for these two organizations. *“The implementation of this state-of-the-art laboratory is something that wouldn’t be possible for us to achieve as individual organizations,”* Langstaff said. *“The strength of our regional program has enabled us to purchase and implement a system that furthers our goal of building a fully integrated, leading practice, best in quality, regional laboratory system,”* added Langstaff.

“Pressures to improve efficiencies in health care continue to drive more consolidation of laboratory services. Digital microbiology, through reports that consolidate a library of culture images, descriptions of the findings and the professional interpretation of the results by the lab, brings microbiology to the clinicians, reducing turnaround times tremendously,” said Norman Sharples, CEO of COPAN Diagnostics, Inc. *“WASPLab bridges the gap between laboratory knowledge and clinicians, improves speed and accessibility of results, shares images and interpretational reports to the office desktop or screen of any mobile device....this is the future of microbiology,”* concluded Sharples.

About the Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program

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Formed with and by Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton, the Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program is a member of the HNHB LHIN Laboratory Medicine Network. With a focus on standardization, consolidation, specialization and innovation, the following organizations have formed a LHIN Laboratory Medicine Network and Council and are working together to further develop the plan for coordination of regional laboratory services in the HNHB LHIN:

- Hamilton Health Sciences –www.hhsc.ca
- Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre – www.hoteldieushaver.org
- Joseph Brant Hospital – www.josephbranthospital.ca
- Niagara Health System - www.nhs.on.ca
- St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton- www.stjosham.on.ca
- West Lincoln Memorial Hospital – www.wlmh.on.ca

Learn more about the HRLMP at <http://hrlmp.ca/>

Learn more about the LHIN Laboratory Council and the Laboratory Medicine Network in the Our Partners section of the HNHB LHIN website www.hnhblhin.on.ca

About COPAN Diagnostics, Inc.

With a reputation for innovation, COPAN is the leading manufacturer of collection and transport systems in the world. COPAN's collaborative approach to preanalytics has resulted in Flocked Swabs, ESwab, Universal Transport Medium and modular laboratory automation, WASP® and WASPLab. For more information about COPAN Diagnostics, visit <http://www.copanusa.com>.

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