

Penzberg, May 14, 2009

Roche Launches Complete Detection Kit for Influenza A /H1N1 on LightCycler® System

Roche Applied Science announced today the availability of a new detection kit for the Influenza A/H1N1 virus. The detection tools are offered for use in life science research. Roche currently is filing to get approval of the local health authorities worldwide for use of the kit in emergency situations.

The kit runs on Roche's LightCycler® 480 II, 2.0, and 1.5 systems. It was evaluated with virus positive sample materials and selectively identifies the new Influenza A H1N1 virus. Compared with other detection kits, it features a couple of advantages in regard to efficiency and handling.

"The design of the new detection kits benefitted very much from information we got out of our manifold research cooperations. We are glad of our contribution in supplying fast and reliable tools for the detection of Influenza A/H1N1 to the research community," said Manfred Baier, Head of Roche Applied Science.

Applied Science offers a variety of platforms that can be used to help identify the Influenza A H1N1 virus, including Nucleic Acid Purification, Real-Time PCR, Microarrays and Sequencing systems. The company is in close contact with various research institutions and test centers worldwide providing assistance in the detection and characterization of Influenza A H1N1 virus.

Currently, there is no human vaccine on the market that protects against swine influenza infection. Standard therapy for the disease includes treatment with antiviral drugs like Tamiflu or Relenza. For more information on Influenza A H1N1 please visit www.who.int.

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, virology, inflammation, metabolism and CNS. Roche is also the world leader in in-vitro diagnostics, tissue-based cancer diagnostics and a pioneer in diabetes

management. Roche's personalised healthcare strategy aims at providing medicines and diagnostic tools that enable tangible improvements in the health, quality of life and survival of patients. In 2008, Roche had over 80,000 employees worldwide and invested almost 9 billion Swiss francs in R&D. The Group posted sales of 45.6 billion Swiss francs. Genentech, United States, is a wholly owned member of the Roche Group. Roche has a majority stake in Chugai Pharmaceutical, Japan. For more information: www.roche.com.

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