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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Clinical Trial conducted at the Royal Free Hospital in U.K. re-affirms the sensitivity of the Viatronix V3D-Colon when used for colon cancer screening**

Stony Brook, NY September 4, 2007-- Stony Brook based Viatronix Incorporated (www.viatronix.com), a leading innovator and developer of 3D imaging software, and Vertec Scientific Ltd. (www.vertec.co.uk) its U.K. based distributor, jointly announced today the publication of the results of a study, utilizing Viatronix V3D Colon, performed at the Departments of Gastroenterology and Radiology, Hampstead Campus, Royal Free and University College Medical School in London, UK. The results have been published in the September 2007 issue of *Alimentary Pharmacology & Therapeutics*, titled "Virtual versus Optical Colonoscopy in Symptomatic Gastroenterology Outpatients – the Case for Virtual Imaging Followed by Targeted Diagnostic or Therapeutic Colonoscopy."

Computed tomographic colonography (CTC) is an attractive alternative to optical colonoscopy (OC). However, comparative studies have shown that primary two dimensional (2D) CTC does not have sufficient sensitivity, especially for polyp detection. Primary three dimensional (3D) CT virtual colonoscopy (VC) has been shown to compare well with OC for colorectal neoplasia screening in asymptomatic individuals. This study compares VC with OC findings in symptomatic gastroenterology outpatients.

**Methods:**

One hundred gastroenterology outpatients aged 50 and older underwent same day VC and OC. The endoscopists performing the OCs were unaware of the radiologist's report until the withdrawal phase of the endoscopy when segmental unblinding occurred. The VC and OC findings were compared using the unblinded OC as the reference standard. Extracolonic CT findings were also recorded.

**Findings:**

Pancolonic endoluminal VC was achieved in 99 patients. OC caecal intubation was possible in 91 patients. Direct comparison was possible in 90 patients. Both techniques revealed two rectal and one hepatic flexure cancer. VC revealed 11 polyps  $\geq 6$ mm in diameter in 9 patients. First look OC revealed 10 polyps  $\geq 6$ mm in diameter in 9 patients with a further 15mm polyp discovered after segmental unblinding. The abdominal CT scans revealed 175 extracolonic findings in 72 patients.

**Interpretation:**

In symptomatic patients, 3D VC is equivalent to OC for diagnosing colon cancer and clinically significant polyps. In symptomatic patients, a case can be made for 3D VC as a primary imaging modality followed if necessary by same day targeted therapeutic or diagnostic OC.

- In the 90 patients where both VC and OC were complete, VC reported 11 polyps  $\geq$  6mm in nine patients. In eight additional patients, “possible polyp or faeces”  $\geq$  6mm were reported. On segmental unblinding, none of these was shown to be a mucosal polyp (per patient specificity 91.1%)
- Per polyp sensitivity for polyps  $\geq$ 6mm was 100 percent for VC and 90.0 percent for OC

**Pr. Owen Epstein:**

“Our study, driven by gastroenterologists rather than radiologists, confirms that, V3D-Colon can be offered as an alternative to optical colonoscopy in symptomatic gastroenterology outpatients. The technique is sensitive and sets the scene for follow up targeted colonoscopy when a polyp or cancer is identified. Use of V3D-Colon as an initial test separates patients into a majority who do not require optical colonoscopy, and a minority who could be offered same day targeted diagnostic or therapeutic endoscopy, the majority of whom would only require intubation of the recto-sigmoid or descending colon. V3D-Colon is performed without sedation, extends patient choice and changes the investigation paradigm for symptomatic as well as screening patients.”

**Bill Hipgrave:**

“I think it's an excellent paper, somewhat unique in that it is in a symptomatic patient population and not a screening population. This is a 'real-world' test of a Virtual Colonoscopy system with elderly patients taken from the Gastroenterology waiting list. As a test, it is clear that Viatronix V3D is the perfect tool to act as the first line in the evaluation of symptomatic patients, thus saving many from unnecessary endoscopy. The results speak for themselves, using a primary 3D approach, is every bit as good as optical colonoscopy for screening and allows more of the lumen surface to be visualized. Vertec Scientific are proud to have been able to play a part in this study by supporting the Royal Free trial with V3D-Colon software and technical support as required.”

**Zaffar Hayat:**

“Viatronix is certainly honored to have been a part of this trial at the Royal Free Hospital. I am thankful to the innovative thinking of Pr. Owen Epstein, MBBCh, FRCP in taking on this challenge and also proving that that CT Colonography for screening is a viable alternative when utilizing V3D-Colon. The trial further validates that the Gold Standard of “Virtual Colonoscopy”- the Viatronix V3D-Colon has consistently proven to have a high degree of sensitivity in independent clinical trials.”

**About Viatronix**

Viatronix is a leading innovator and developer of 2D/3D medical imaging and diagnostic software. Our software enables physicians to interactively view vital organs and anatomical structures within the human body from data acquired by standard medical imaging equipment in minimally or non-invasive methods. The 2D digital data acquired from imaging devices is automatically post processed using the company’s proprietary software techniques and provides 3D diagnostic quality images for the physician. The

company's first product, V3D-Colon for "virtual colonoscopy" allows physicians to interactively view the colon reconstructed from a CT scan, providing visualization of the entire colon wall which includes polyps and other lesions. The company's V3D-Explorer offers a robust and user-friendly workstation platform that views and reconstructs data in 2D/3D for virtually any organ in the body. V3D-Calcium Scoring aids physicians in determining the amount of calcified plaque accumulation in the coronary arteries. V3D-Vascular is breakthrough software that permits rapid segmentation and visualization of complex arterial structures using 3D volume rendering, maximum intensity projection and simulated x-ray views. Viatronix, through application of the V3D technology, is developing additional innovative products that will be useful in early detection of other diseases, treatment planning, intervention and follow up evaluation. Viatronix, Inc. is located in Stony Brook, NY. For further information, call toll free 1-866-887-4636 or log on to: [www.viatronix.com](http://www.viatronix.com)

### **About Vertec**

Vertec Scientific is a sales and service organization dealing exclusively in the medical and scientific fields. Established in 1978, the company was privately owned until its purchase in December 1998 and is now a wholly owned subsidiary of Acal Plc. Vertec Scientific has an unsurpassed reputation for quality of products and after sales service, which has been built up over many years. We have been ISO 9000 accredited since 1995 and are WEEE compliant (reg no. WEE/AD0070TY)

In September 2006, Vertec opened a subsidiary company in South Africa. Vertec SA, based in Johannesburg, follows the same high standards as Vertec in the UK and has achieved significant success.

For further information call +44 1189 817 431 or go to [www.vertec.co.uk](http://www.vertec.co.uk) for the UK and [www.vertecsa.co.za](http://www.vertecsa.co.za) for South Africa.

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