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STONY BROOK, N.Y., December 21, 2000 - Imagine going for a consultation with your doctor, and the resource he uses to discuss your internal anatomy isn't a set of flat X-rays or other obscure photographic negatives but a virtual computer model of your organs displayed on a PC screen. Science fiction? It's happening right now at the University Hospital at Stony Brook. Hundreds of patients are volunteering to participate in clinical tests to compare a new computer visualization tool to conventional medical examinations.

Fresh from the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) in Chicago last month, Viatronix Incorporated, a new company out of the University of Stony Brook, is introducing its novel "virtual" diagnostic tool for performing non-invasive colonoscopies. The Viatronix v3D, which recently received FDA clearance to go to market, is a successful joining of information technology and biomedicine to produce three-dimensional (3D) computer images of the colon.

"We just got back [from the RSNA conference] and we have received numerous commercial inquiries for our system," Richard B. Williams, Viatronix president and chief executive officer, said yesterday. "Radiologists from all parts of the country have shown interest in our product. We're very pleased."

Viatronix will be conducting clinical trials to compare their method with conventional (optical endoscopic) techniques. Tests are underway now at Stony Brook University Medical Center, with plans for additional tests at other medical centers in the area.

If the tests go as expected—with the v3D proving comparable or better than standard methods—the general public may soon be exposed to the next big step in the future of biomedical imaging. Hard to believe that just over one hundred years ago doctors had to cut a patient open to discover what was wrong.***

Computed Tomography (CT), developed by the U.S. Space Program, enables physicians to examine the internal organs of a patient as displayed on a computer terminal. But CT scanning is only as good as the computer technology that drives it, and with recent advances in the speed and storage capability of computers the time is right for more advanced methods of performing internal examinations.

Viatronix wants to welcome you to the 21st century. Using the information produced from CT scans, Viatronix has perfected an innovative, less-expensive, patient-friendly method of examining internal organs. Concentrating primarily on the colon, or large intestine, where polyps sometimes form and can develop into cancer, the v3D allows a physician to take a "fantastic voyage" through a virtual representation of the organ. Using state-of-the-art computer-based volumetric rendering the v3D sets up a virtual model of the colon on a computer screen. The physician simply navigates down a computer-generated centerline of the colon, watching for polyps that show up clearly on the simulated wall of the colon.

Best of all, it's virtually non-invasive. Conventional colonoscopies use a fiber optic endoscope, and a physician must manually guide this through the colon. The time-consuming method usually involves a thorough laxative purging as well as drinking a large barium "shake" before imaging. Viatronix' new procedure uses a more palatable, smaller barium dose, and minimal purging.

Medical insurance carriers are likely to love this new system, too, because it's less expensive. This is largely because it's less time-consuming. According to Mr. Williams, the "virtual" colonoscopy takes a quarter less time than the conventional examination, and the patient is awake during the procedure. Less expensive and more efficient examinations can result in more patients screened. This, in turn, translates into lives saved.

"The reason we started with the colon was purely humanitarian," Mr. Williams said. "Colon cancer is very treatable if polyps are detected early, yet an estimated seventy percent of the population is never screened. Creating a volumetric model of the colon seemed the most practical application of our system." Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, second only to lung cancer. It is also one of the most treatable forms of cancer if detected early. Over 50,000 patients die of the disease each year.

"Virtual colonoscopy is only the first application," Mr. Williams said. "We plan to take these very sophisticated software technologies and apply them to other organ systems to deliver better, cheaper, more patient-friendly medicine." Plans are in the making to link the v3D up with MRIs, and for organ-specific modules to augment the v3D core technology. Modules planned include the heart, arteries, lungs, bladder and brain. "I can see the day in the near future when we will map all of the organs in the body," Mr. Williams said. Welcome to the 21st century.

About Viatronix, Inc.

Viatronix, Inc., is a leading innovator and developer of diagnostic 3D imaging software, which enables physicians to interactively view patients' vital organs and anatomical structures. The Viatronix V3D has patent protected technology, which enables 3D visualization of organs from patient data acquired by standard imaging equipment in a minimally or non-invasive method. The

company's leading product, the V3D-Colon, allows physicians to interactively view the colon reconstructed from a CT scan, providing visualization of the inner surface of the colon including polyps. The V3D-Calcium Scoring aids physicians in determining the amount of calcium plaque accumulation in the coronary arteries to facilitate cardiac analysis. Viatronix, through application of the V3D technology, is developing additional innovative products that will be useful in earlier detection of other diseases, treatment planning, and follow up evaluation. Viatronix, Inc. is headquartered in Stony Brook, NY. For further information, call toll free 1-866-887-4636 or log on to www.viatronix.com.