FIRST 'VIRTUAL' COLONOSCOPY SYSTEM
Viatronix Inc. Installs First Unit at Imaging Center in California

STONY BROOK, N.Y., February 15, 2001 -The over 50 population of Palm Desert, California can delight in the fact that they are among the first to have access to the innovative and most advanced technology for "virtual" colonoscopy from Viatronix Incorporated.

Viatronix' first unit was installed this week at Open Systems Imaging in Palm Desert, California, and more units are planned in all eight (8) of their California locations, as well as their expansion sites throughout the country. Viatronix, whose chairman is former astronaut Lt. Gen. Thomas Stafford, also hopes to introduce their system to the European medical community, as well as other overseas markets, sometime this year.

The Viatronix system uses information obtained from a helical CAT scan of the patient's abdomen to create a virtual image of the colon on a computer screen. In this way a physician can "fly-through" a virtual image of the patient's colon on a PC.

Viatronix, currently located in the Long Island High Technology Incubator on the grounds of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, has announced the introduction of this new diagnostic tool for performing non-invasive colonoscopies, The Viatronix v3D. The v3D, which received FDA clearance to go to market last November, is an innovative integration of information technology and biomedicine to produce a three-dimensional (3D) virtual image of the colon for the purpose of aiding in the early detection of colon polyps, which could become cancerous.

"It's like taking a 'Fantastic Voyage' through the colon, as if you were in a submarine navigating the length of the organ," Dr. Arie E. Kaufman, Viatronix Vice President of Research and Development, said. The voyage comes complete with full viewing capabilities, enabling a physician to stop the fly-through, turn around and look at any aspect of an anomaly from any viewpoint. "Just as you would hold an object in your hands and turn it around to see it from all angles," Dr. Kaufman said, "the v3D allows you to turn and look at a polyp from different viewpoints."

Conventional colonoscopies, explained Dr. Kaufman, can only cover approximately 70 percent of the colon because they can't turn around and look backward, and in many cases do not reach cecum. The v3D can view the interior of the colon from any direction. Additionally, it's possible to

change the computerized artificial light-source to reveal even more details.

Viatronix has also created an innovative way to provide physicians with additional information on a suspected polyp by "seeing through" it. "We call it ‘Translucent Rendering,’" Dr. Kaufman said, "and it gives the doctor a pretty good idea how to differentiate a true abnormality from an artifact by showing the hidden structures beneath the surface."

Since the v3D uses data from a helical CAT scan, the Viatronix examination is non-invasive, while conventional colonoscopies use a fiber optic endoscope that is manually guided through the entire length of the colon. This invasive and time-consuming method also involves sedating the patient, as well as extensive laxative purging. Another common procedure is the barium enema assessment, where the patient has to drink a large dose of barium as a tagging agent before the CAT scan. Viatronix’ new method uses a more palatable method to clean the colon that only restricts a patient’s diet for two days before the exam, with minimal purging and no enema. Patients drink a small amount of barium with their meals before the exam so the v3D can eliminate leftover material. "We perform an electronic cleansing—the computer detects and negates the tagged material—eliminating the need for a physical bowel cleansing," Dr. Kaufman said.

"Virtual" colonoscopy is also a less expensive procedure—requiring no anesthesia or recovery time—and the exam itself takes only a fraction of the time for a conventional exam. Cheaper and more efficient examinations can result in more patients screened. This, in turn, translates into lives saved, which is the reason Viatronix is in business, Dr. Kaufman added.

Viatronix is currently conducting clinical trials across the country, comparing their system with existing endoscopic (fiber optic) examinations. "The trials are moving right along; our system is demonstrating its effectiveness, versatility and strong correlation with optical colonoscopy in the diagnosis of pre-cancerous colon polyps," according to Viatronix Medical Director Dr. Mark R. Wax.

Viatronix decided to concentrate on the colon first because it was the most logical extension of the research conducted at Stony Brook for the past 16 years. "The reason we started with the colon was purely humanitarian," Dr. Kaufman said. "Colon cancer is very preventable if polyps are detected early, yet an estimated 80 to 85 percent of the population is never screened." 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 in the US.

Using state-of-the-art computer technology, the research team—consisting of Dr. Kaufman, Dr. Wax and Dr. Jerome Liang, as well as other members of the university faculty and graduate students, some of whom have converted their graduate research into full-time positions with Viatronix—had to wait

for PC technology to "catch-up" before they could breathe life into their vision regarding virtual diagnostics. "Three years ago the PC industry finally caught up to our needs," Dr. Kaufman said. "Now our software and algorithms used to produce an image of the colon can run on a powerful PC, instead of a multi-million dollar machine."

Viatronix has taken Compaq as their hardware partner, providing the most up-to-date PC available to control the v3D and to supply the necessary power needed to run the extensive software used in the imaging.

"'Virtual' colonoscopy is only the first application," Dr. Kaufman said. "We are taking our sophisticated software technology and applying it to other organs in the body, to deliver better, cheaper, more patient-friendly medicine." Plans are in the making to link the v3D to MRIs, and for organ-specific modules to augment the v3D core technology.

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.

PR Contact: For Viatronix

Janet Masini - 631-444-6181 or jmasini@viatronix.com