



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aquila joins International Collaboration for the Malaria Vaccine Initiative

August 12, 2015— Edmonton, Alberta — Aquila Diagnostics Inc. today announced its participation in a project with the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative to improve testing for malaria infectiousness.

Working closely with Dr. Stephanie Yanow of the University of Alberta and researchers at Radboud University Medical Centre in Holland and Harvard University, Aquila is providing its *Accutas*TM portable diagnostic system to rapidly detect genetic markers in blood samples in the field to help curb the transmission of malaria.

This project, funded by the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative, began earlier this year and will continue into early 2016 with a budget allocation of \$60,000 USD for Aquila.

The project's goal is to identify genes in the malaria parasite that control the ability of the parasite to be transmitted from humans to mosquitoes. Tests will then be designed to detect these genes in the parasites from infected individuals.

Using new, faster diagnostic tools developed for the *Accutas*TM, researchers can quickly determine how easily an individual's infection can be transmitted by mosquitoes. These diagnostics will support new control strategies to block transmission and help slow down the spread of malaria.

Every year across the globe over a million deaths are caused by malaria. Despite a decline in malaria in certain regions, new diagnostic tools and tests are urgently required. The *Accutas*TM will be integral in the global challenge to eradicate malaria.

About Aquila and the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative

Aquila Diagnostic Systems Inc. is a privately held Canadian company commercializing its innovative *Accutas* solution for a point-of-care molecular (DNA/RNA) diagnostic testing system. The *Accutas* provides low cost, laboratory quality diagnostics at the point-of-care, eliminating cost and the inconvenience of waiting days or weeks for laboratory results and speeding up treatment and improving care. Aquila is preparing to enter large markets for veterinary and tropical fever diagnostics.

The PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI) is a global program of the international nonprofit organization PATH. MVI was established in 1999 through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

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