Press Release – For Public Distribution

Specific Technologies Announces Faster Detection Combined with Hands-Free Identification of *Mycobacterium* in Culture

Sensor fingerprint a new paradigm enabling rapid detection of resistant strains in culture

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif., February 11, 2015 -- Specific Technologies, developer of the SpecID™ system to characterize microorganisms via a "fingerprint" of volatiles emitted during growth, today announces results demonstrating the rapid detection and simultaneous ID of *Mycobacterium* including *M. tuberculosis* in culture, have been accepted for presentation at the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases in Copenhagen April 25. When compared with MGIT™, the present worldwide standard, the results demonstrate 29.7% faster detection while furnishing a novel hands-free species ID.

In the study, entitled "Faster detection and Identification of TB and other *Mycobacterium* in culture," 10 distinct species of *Mycobacteria* were characterized by the printed, disposable SpecID™ sensor when put in contact with the headspace of a standard *Mycobacterium* culture bottle. The same samples were simultaneously assessed with Becton Dickinson's MGIT™ culture system. The SpecID™ array responded positive faster than MGIT™ in 9/10 of the species tested, including TB where SpecID™ declared positive 29.7% faster than MGIT™. Further, in all cases, the SpecID™ sensor obtained a species-specific fingerprint, furnishing a novel hands-free ID highly suited to low-resource environments in cost and simplicity, while streamlining work flow and information flow in the most modern labs.

"A simultaneous improvement in both time to detection and hands-free ID for TB culture will be welcome in the field, and complementary to molecular assay of sample," said Dr. Paul Rhodes, Chief Executive Officer of Specific Technologies. "Further, the SpecID fingerprint is not only species- but strain-specific, and is automatically obtained for all samples. As a result, this new paradigm of culture characterization offers a cost-effective capability to both characterize and geographically track resistant strains."

About the SpecID System

During growth in culture, bacteria produce small molecule volatile metabolites unique to their species and strain. Specific Technologies has developed the SpecID system, a new paradigm for identifying microorganisms from the metabolomic signature of organism outgas into culture headspace. Utilizing a printed, low cost, disposable array of colorimetrical chemical indicators a fingerprint of emitted volatiles is obtained that allows both detection and identification in an automated single step, faster than conventional culture methods register a positive.

About Specific Technologies

Specific Technologies has developed *in vitro* systems for rapid characterization of microorganisms growing in culture, and is also applying this fundamental new platform to the detection and characterization of microorganisms causing blood infection. The Company's unique, patented metabolomic signature technology leverages a low-cost printed sensor to identify cell type down to the strain level. Specific Technologies is located in Mountain View, CA.

For additional information, please visit www.specifictechnologies.net.

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