



MICROPHAGE

News Release

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MicroPhage wins ‘R&D Magazine 100 Award’ for world’s first test designed to rapidly identify bacterial infections and determine antibiotic susceptibility

Company setting new standard for fighting hospital acquired infections and reducing bacterial resistance

LONGMONT, Colo., July 19, 2010—[MicroPhage](#) announced today that it has received the ‘R&D Magazine 100 Award’ in Bioscience for its ‘**Microphage MRSA/MSSA Blood Culture Test.**’ The first of MicroPhage’s instrument-free rapid tests is based on the Company’s patented *Bacteriophage Amplification* platform technology.

‘R&D Magazine 100 Awards 2010’ are widely recognized as the ‘Oscars of Innovation’, identifying and celebrating the top bioscience products of the year. The ‘R&D Magazine 100 Awards’ span industry, academia, and government-sponsored research.

The Company’s initial commercial product—‘**Microphage MRSA/MSSA Blood Culture Test**’—which has received regulatory clearance (CE Mark) to be sold in Europe, is designed to rapidly identify *Staphylococcus aureus* (“staph”) bacteria as well as determine methicillin resistance (MRSA) or susceptibility (MSSA) in suspected cases of bacteremia—bacteria in the blood—in as little as five hours. Today’s standard of care for determining these types of infections takes up to three days for test-results, which can result in ineffective treatment, bacterial resistance, and death.

“This major award objectively recognizes that our technology represents a new era for the effective *and* cost-effective diagnosis of bacterial infections,” said MicroPhage VP of Research and Development, **Drew Smith**. “These infections are a difficult challenge, afflicting millions of patients every year, and costing billions of dollars in health care expenses. This award bears strong testimony that our initial test is an innovative benchmark in bacterial identification and antibiotic susceptibility testing, and we are delighted to receive it.”

The **MicroPhage MRSA/MSSA Blood Culture Test** requires no instrumentation and begins with two small reaction tubes for incubating blood culture specimens. After only five hours, the incubated samples are added to a dual dipstick-like detector, which looks much like a home pregnancy test. One part of the test determines if the blood sample is infected with *S. aureus* bacteria and the other shows whether it is susceptible or resistant to methicillin-type antibiotics. Delivering this diagnostic information quickly enables physicians to determine more effective antibiotic therapy. Better therapy will shorten hospital stays, lower health care costs and, ultimately, save lives. *S. aureus* bacteremia typically has a mortality rate of > 20 percent.

About MicroPhage’s *Bacteriophage Amplification* Platform

Building on original research licensed from the Colorado School of Mines, MicroPhage has

adapted Bacteriophage Amplification, a natural biologic process, for identifying bacterial infections. *Bacteriophage* are harmless bacteria-specific viruses that multiply aggressively when exposed to target bacteria. In the detection process, reaction of the bacteriophage proteins on the MicroPhage detector indicates that the sample is positive for the bacteria. For susceptibility analysis, the organism in the sample is simultaneously challenged with an antibiotic. Because bacteriophage depend on host bacteria for amplification, any compound that kills or inhibits the microbe's growth will stop phage amplification. Only strains resistant to the antibiotic allow this amplification and yield a positive signal on the second detector strip on the test, indicating an MRSA infection. A negative signal indicates a MSSA infection. The platform enables rapid, high-performing testing without the need for expensive equipment or dedicated time of laboratory staff.

About MicroPhage, Inc.

Based in Longmont, Colorado, privately held MicroPhage, Inc. is working to be a global leader in developing rapid, easy-to-use diagnostic products for bacterial identification and antibiotic susceptibility/resistance testing. Using its proprietary ***Bacteriophage Amplification*** platform, the Company has developed patented processes that are a platform for rapid, easy-to-use, inexpensive diagnostic and screening tests. The technology platform resembles a home pregnancy test with twin, rapid detectors. The platform does not require any instrumentation and is simple to operate, enabling microbiology testing outside of traditional laboratory settings.

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