



November 22, 2005

## **Nashville-based PathGroup Enters Agreement with Roche Diagnostics to Expand Cutting-Edge Molecular Medical Laboratory Testing**

### ***PathGroup named a Roche Molecular Center of Excellence***

**Nashville, Tenn.** --Today, Nashville-based PathGroup, a leading regional laboratory provider with a full menu of routine and esoteric testing for both clinical and molecular diagnostics, announced that it has signed a five-year strategic alliance agreement with Roche Diagnostics to establish a Molecular Center of Excellence (MCOE). As an MCOE, they will perform molecular diagnostic testing using Roche Diagnostics' patented Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), which is more sensitive and more specific than traditional culture-based methods.

More than 500,000 medical laboratory tests are performed each year at PathGroup, including molecular tests for Chlamydia and gonorrhea, bacterial infections that are sexually transmitted, and Factor V and Factor II test which provide a fast and accurate tool to aid in the diagnosis and evaluation of patients with suspected thrombophilia (a tendency to form blood clots that can lead to heart attack, stroke, or pulmonary embolism). These tests and other molecular diagnostics tests performed at PathGroup help physicians diagnose and monitor diseases of people throughout the Southeastern U.S.

"PathGroup is focused on improving patient care through the appropriate use of advanced molecular methods. We have partnered with Roche Diagnostics to form a strategic relationship to leverage each other's capabilities, competencies, and resources to achieve mutual success," said Ben Davis, MD, Chief Executive Officer, PathGroup.

As a Roche Diagnostics Molecular Center of Excellence, PathGroup will be focusing on molecular testing which enables them to diagnose specific viral and bacterial pathogens, and also brings them the ability to monitor how much pathogen is present in the system, a feature which allows better treatment options.

Using PCR, scientists can take a specimen (such as blood, skin cells, saliva, and hair, to name a few) containing a minute amount of genetic material, copy a selected region from it over and over, and—within hours—generate a sample sufficient to perform a variety of tests.

PathGroup, Inc., located in Brentwood, Tennessee, is a quality-driven pathology and clinical services group providing anatomical, clinical and administrative services to hospitals, multi-specialty clients, surgery centers, physician offices and other clinical reference laboratories. PathGroup's mission is to provide the highest quality anatomical and clinical pathology services that consistently exceed the expectations of its clients, physicians, employees, and most importantly, the patients.

**For more information contact:**

Joe Boyd  
PathGroup  
615-221-4477  
jboyd@pathgroup.com