

Labco pursues its commitment in the field of preventive medicine

Brussels, November 10th 2009

One month after the organization of PreMed, a congress dedicated to the role of laboratory medicine in preventive and predictive medicine, Labco made a further step in this field. Indeed, yesterday it organized an educational session about the role of lab medicine in the prevention of hypertension and cardiovascular diseases.

Hypertension represents a major burden for modern societies and remains one major concern of the World Health Organization (WHO). Furthermore, because of the high prevalence and incidence, hypertension and cardiovascular disorders are ideal candidates for validation of preventive medicine initiatives and measures.

Laboratory medicine and biomarkers are active contributors for the work up of hypertensive patients and may participate to preventive medicine and primary prevention by significant improvement of early diagnosis of the diseases.

Labco, through its Belgian branch Laboratoires Roman Pais, and in association with the European Medical Association and with the diagnostics company DiaSorin, organized an information session to review the current issues related to hypertension and to new trends for biomarkers associated to diagnosis of hypertensive disorders.

This session devoted to hypertension and Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone system was organized on October 29th at the Constant Vandenstock Stadium, and was aimed at general practitioners who are the most likely to use the kind of tests presented.

Recent evidence about new direct renin assay was discussed as well as its potential contribution to an improved management of hypertension and primary aldosteronism by the general practitioners. This role was reinforced by preliminary pre-analytical data from the Roman Pais laboratory demonstrating an *in vitro* stability for this direct renin assay over a six hours period suitable with the management of samples from ambulatory patients.

This session highlighted the potential benefits of pro-active collaboration between healthcare stakeholders, and more specifically between general practitioners, laboratories and *in vitro* diagnostic companies.

About Labco

Labco is the largest European medical diagnostics group, based on a network of local and regional clinical laboratories in 6 European countries. The network currently has a staff of over 4.500 healthcare professionals, in more than 300 laboratories and diagnostic centers. Labco offers a portfolio of over 3.500 reliable clinical tests and treats more than 10 million patients a year. Labco's unique growth model is based on the integration of existing leading local and regional clinical laboratories in its network and offering their laboratory doctors to become shareholders of Labco. The group is majority owned by its laboratory managers. In 2008 Labco achieved pro forma sales of €410 million (+85% compared to 2007).

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