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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Strand Diagnostics promotes prostate cancer awareness with
release of a patient kit for the Know Error DNA test**

Your biopsy specimen. Your DNA. Your diagnosis.

Indianapolis, Indiana (September 27, 2017) -- After nearly a decade of success with the patented **know error**[®] system Strand Diagnostics makes it easier for patients to request the Know Error DNA test on their biopsy tissue. Strand has developed a patient kit using its forensic principles to identify contaminated and mixed surgical specimens within the prostate biopsy process.

The Know Error DNA test primarily ordered by urologists, physicians and laboratories is now available to patients. The test protects biopsy patients from misdiagnosis by comparing the patient's reference DNA swab to the DNA of the biopsy tissue(s) used in the cancer diagnosis. The DNA comparison detects and rules out specimen switching and tissue contamination errors that otherwise might not be seen.

Medical studies indicate that prostate biopsy patients are at a higher risk for this type of misdiagnoses. A prostate biopsy usually requires testing for multiple surgical samples from different areas of the prostate, as well as, the involvement of several medical professionals to provide the diagnosis. Dr. John Pfeifer, vice chairman for clinical affairs in the pathology and immunology department at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, describes the error rates of prostate biopsies in a study published by the American Journal of Clinical Pathology. He discovered that 0.26% of the biopsy samples in the study were completely switched with another patient's samples and 0.67% were contaminated by another person's DNA during the diagnostic process. Even though these percentages seem minimal, *EVERY* urology practice and surgical pathology laboratory with a representative sample size (1000+) experienced at least one error during the study period. And in the cases where the biopsy was completely switched with another patient the diagnosis was assigned to the wrong patient with no idea that the error had even occurred.

Congress is currently working on a Bill to reduce these errors causing misdiagnosis of prostate cancer due to contaminated or switched biopsy specimens. (H.R. 2557) The Prostate Cancer Misdiagnosis Elimination Act can reduce the risk of patients receiving a false positive diagnosis of prostate cancer.

The New York Times recently ran a story entitled "When the Lab Gets It Wrong". The feature disclosed a laboratory mix-up of two prostate biopsy patients involving a false positive diagnosis. Each gentlemen was given the wrong pathology result. One man was faced with a cancer diagnosis and days later was told he was cancer-free, while the other was contacted with the bad news that he did indeed have cancer even though he was previously told he did not.

"Strand provides a solution to this problem by offering a DNA test that can expose the presence of any non-patient DNA in a biopsy sample even if the foreign cells are not visible under a microscope," explains, Ted Schenberg, CEO of Strand Diagnostics.

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Over 2000 physicians across the U.S. utilize the **know error**[®] **system** on a routine basis for the diagnostic accuracy of knowing they are treating the true patient. As an effort to extend this service to more biopsy patients Strand has developed the patient kit offering the same DNA testing services to patients who have undergone or are about to undergo a surgical biopsy. Schenberg says, “The outreach to patients is one way Strand can assist more physicians performing surgical biopsies in patient safety and diagnostic accuracy.”

To get started patients can simply call 1-888-924-6679, and select option 2 or visit www.knowerror.com for more information. Its fast, simple, painless, and a patient kit can be shipped directly to you or your loved one’s home.

About Strand Diagnostics

Strand Diagnostics protects the person in personalized medicine[®] from its high complexity DNA laboratory in Indianapolis, Indiana. Strand is certified to perform medical DNA testing nationally by CLIA and is accredited by FQS-I to perform DNA identification for law enforcement agencies pursuant to FBI standards. Strand’s patented **know error**[®] **system** is used to protect thousands of surgical biopsy patients each month from diagnostic errors resulting from switched or contaminated tissue specimens. For more information, please visit www.knowerror.com.

RESOURCES

John D. Pfeifer, MD, Jingxia Liu, PhD; Rate of Occult Specimen Provenance Complications in Routine Clinical Practice; *American Journal of Clinical Pathology*, Volume 139, Issue 1, 1 January 2013, Pages 93–100.
<https://academic.oup.com/ajcp/article/139/1/93/1766518/Rate-of-Occult-Specimen-Provenance-Complications>

The New York Times; June 27, 2017; Page D1 of the New York edition with the headline: When the Lab Gets It Wrong.
Online at <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/26/health/the-lab-says-its-cancer-but-sometimes-the-lab-is-wrong.html>

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