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Contact:

World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine To Collaborate with Labs Are Vital for Lab Profession Advocacy

ABBOTT PARK, Ill., Jan. ___, 2011 – Labs Are Vital, www.labsarevital.com, announced today it has concluded a three-year agreement with the World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPaLM), www.waspalm.org, through which the organizations will collaborate on educational and promotional endeavors to advance the image and stature of laboratory science professions worldwide.

Established in 2006, Labs Are Vital is a multi-year, multi-faceted education and awareness program, sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics, to promote the laboratory profession to the public and focus attention on the life-saving work medical laboratory scientists provide in diagnosing disease and improving health outcomes. Its activities are designed to elevate the status of lab professionals within the health care community and the general public, address issues that face the profession today, and serve as a community for professionals to exchange ideas and get new information.

WASPaLM is a worldwide consortium of pathology and laboratory medicine societies with a mission to promote the practice of high quality, cost effective laboratory medicine services through ongoing education, research and formulation of international quality standards.

Under terms of the agreement, WASPaLM becomes a partner organization of Labs Are Vital and will promote Labs Are Vital to its international members to help increase support and participation in the program. Activities will include promoting Labs Are Vital on the WASPaLM website, providing complimentary booth space at regional and chapter meetings, and allocating free advertising in the consortium's journals and publications. In addition, Labs Are Vital representatives will interact with WASPaLM members at general session meetings to extend the program's audience and enhance the influence of ongoing Labs Are Vital initiatives.

“The World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine represents 45 societies in 34 countries across the globe, and the partnership with Labs Are Vital opens up new opportunities to increase the visibility of pathology and laboratory medicine,” said WASPaLM President Michael Oellerich, MD. “There is a substantial overlap of common goals, such as the promotion of education, research, international quality standards, and the exchange of information between pathologists and laboratory scientists. Both organizations share the same mission to improve health throughout the world by promoting the teaching and practice of all

aspects of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. WASPaLM considers the partnership with Labs Are Vital as an excellent opportunity to successfully implement these goals.”

“Labs Are Vital is honored and enthused to be joining forces with the prestigious World Association of Societies and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in pursuing our common advocacy goals to enhance the stature of the laboratory medicine profession globally among physicians and other health care professionals, hospital executives, health policy makers and the public,” said Kathy Turner, divisional vice president, Abbott Diagnostics. “This will be a powerful and influential collaboration to promote the exchange of information among laboratory scientists worldwide, and also to encourage a new generation of scientists to consider careers in laboratory medicine.”

Turner added that increasing the number of Labs Are Vital supporters sends a strong message to the global health care community to support the laboratory profession.

Since its inception, Labs Are Vital has partnered with numerous laboratory medicine societies and collaborated in developing an awareness campaign and web site (www.labsarevital.com) with a variety of resources for the laboratory professional, all with the focus of reinforcing the importance of the work of laboratory scientists in the diagnosis of disease states and in health care in general. As a result, LabsAreVital.com has become a valuable online resource for laboratory professionals and anyone interested in working in the diagnostics industry worldwide.

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