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GeneCapture Awarded \$1 Million U.S. ARMY-Funded Development Contract to Add Invasive Fungal Pathogen Probes to its Rapid Detection Panel

Significant Rise in Global Fungal Infections Affecting Civilian and Military Health

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HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA – GeneCapture, an emerging Point-of-Care infection diagnostics company, has been awarded a contract funded by the U.S. Army and managed by the Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) to address a capability gap in soldier health and readiness. The \$1 million contract adds invasive fungal pathogen probes to the current bacterial and viral panel, enhancing its platform capabilities in identifying and treating complex infections. Wound infections are often caused by multiple pathogens, with invasive fungal infections generally being the hardest to diagnose and treat.

GeneCapture scientists are developing several dozen probes to target fourteen of the most common fungal pathogens including *Aspergillus*, *Mucor*, and *Fusarium*. The new probes will be added to their pathogen identification panel, which is part of the CAPTURE™ Platform for portable rapid diagnostics. The work under this contract will be performed at the GeneCapture lab on the campus of the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology. The technology concept originated at The University of Alabama in Huntsville and was licensed to GeneCapture to commercialize.

Prolonged field care conditions on the battlefield make the requirement for invasive fungal detection more urgent. The same urgency in civilian health is being driven by increased numbers of fungal infections, many of which are drug resistant, and where any delay in diagnosis and effective treatment can be life-threatening.

“Invasive fungal infections are on the rise. Having access to a system that can rapidly identify fungal pathogens is invaluable for positive patient outcomes. This is a growing challenge for hospitals and clinics,” said Louise C. O’Keefe, PhD, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, UAH College of Nursing and Family Nurse Practitioner.

Fungal infections develop when soil or environmental debris come in contact with tissue that is exposed in a wound. Once in the damaged tissue, the fungal organisms grow invasively and are difficult to isolate and identify by conventional means. GeneCapture’s proprietary technology identifies the specific pathogen causing the infection by quickly finding an RNA signature match without the need to first isolate the fungus.

The platform technology is being developed for FDA clearance for several applications to address both unmet diagnostic needs in civilian and warfighter healthcare, including wounds, urinary tract infections, animal and plant diseases and DoD-identified biothreats. The GeneCapture platform is intended to be developed for point-of-care capabilities that enable rapid detection, diagnosis, and Antibiotic Susceptibility testing. This latest contract follows other



GeneCapture identifies the molecular signature of the pathogen in its 1-hour sample-to-answer cartridge.

recent contract awards the company has received, from Defense Health Agency, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and the State of Alabama.

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GeneCapture's mission is to bring 'infection detection' out of the lab and directly to the patient, whether at a doctor's office, an airport, a cruise ship, a farm, or a battlefield. Our rapid infection detection platform and antibiotic susceptibility platform are designed for point of care medicine. GeneCapture, Inc. is an associate company on the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology campus in Huntsville, Alabama, a leading research institute in genetics and genomics. Learn more about GeneCapture at www.genecapture.com or contact the company at info@genecapture.com.

The Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) is a 501(c)(3) biomedical technology consortium that is internationally-dispersed, collaborating with multiple government agencies under a 10-year renewable Other Transaction Agreement with the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command. The consortium focuses on the development of medical solutions that protect, treat, and optimize the health and performance of U.S. military personnel and civilians. www.mtec-sc.org

The University of Alabama in Huntsville: The university's nearly 500-acre campus, which includes 17 high-tech research centers and labs responsible for nearly \$169.5 million in annual research expenditures, serves as the anchor tenant for the second-largest research park in the nation. It also maintains strong partnerships with federal agencies and commercial organizations that include the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, the Missile Defense Agency, the DIA Missile and Space Intelligence Center, and the U.S. Army Materiel Command. www.uah.edu