ASX Release

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Resonance Health breakthrough in liver fibrosis measurement to feature at US Liver Conference

The Board of Resonance Health (ASX: RHT) today announced the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease (AASLD) has now published the abstract from Chief Scientific Officer Professor Tim St Pierre, outlining promising results of a study using a prototype liver fibrosis measurement.

The study examined the potential of computer-learned image analysis models to distinguish between low and high fibrosis scores in a patient cohort with Hepatitis C using magnetic resonance images of the liver. It involved further research on image data obtained in the Company's PUMA study at the Austin Hospital, Melbourne. The study, which was funded by Pfizer Inc, aimed to assist development of a non-invasive MRI-based detection and measurement of liver fibrosis.

A standardised, accurate test to non-invasively measure liver fibrosis would offer clinicians vital information on their patients' liver condition, either in isolation or in conjunction with Resonance Health's HepaFat-Scan® to measure liver fat. Currently the most widely used method for measuring liver fibrosis is through liver biopsy which is invasive, painful and can be subject to inaccuracy.

Liver fibrosis can be caused by a number of factors including chronic liver disease resulting from hepatitis C, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), high alcohol intake or a compromised immune system. Liver fibrosis may ultimately lead to cancer of the liver. Modern Western lifestyles are contributing to an increase in the incidence of liver fibrosis. In the US alone there are approx. 2.7 million chronically infected hepatitis C patients, 80% of whom currently require biopsy in the course of their treatment.

Dr Martin Blake, Chairman of Resonance Health said "Resonance Health is a globally recognised specialist in the development of non-invasive MRI–based measurements for liver conditions. The development of a non-invasive test for liver fibrosis is an important milestone for the Company and we are delighted to have achieved this very exciting result. We are exploring opportunities with pharma companies who are developing treatments for liver fibrosis as we progress from prototype model to validate the technology."

The abstract will be presented at the AASLD Liver Meeting to be held in San Francisco (November 13th-17th). Validation studies are currently being planned along with further research to confirm the utility of the test across different disease states, such as Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD).

For further information on potential applications of our prototype fibrosis measurement in a research setting or to discuss opportunities for collaboration please come see us at the AASLD Liver Meeting at Booth 241 or contact Mr Sander Bangma, General Manager.

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What is liver fibrosis?

Liver fibrosis is the scarring process that represents the liver's response to injury. In the same way as skin and other organs heal wounds through deposition of collagen and other matrix constituents so the liver repairs injury through the deposition of new collagen. Over time this process can result in cirrhosis of the liver, in which the architectural organization of the functional units of the liver becomes so disrupted that blood flow through the liver and liver function become disrupted. Once cirrhosis has developed, the serious complications of liver disease may occur, including portal hypertension, liver failure and liver cancer.