

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VMRD's PEDV FA Substrate Slide Now Available

Slide represents new diagnostic tool for detection of PEDV antibody

Pullman, Washington, June 25, 2014— VMRD announced today the availability of a substrate slide that can be used for the detection of antibody to porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV). The slides are of twelve-well, Teflon-masked format with a substrate of fixed (killed), PEDV-infected Vero cells interspersed with non-infected Vero cells.

“This substrate slide is the first quality-controlled FA diagnostic tool for PEDV on the market,” said Dr. Chungwon Chung, Vice President of Research and Development at VMRD. “It is a hassle-free, ready-to-use product.”

Diagnostic methods for PEDV fall generally under the categories of antibody detection and agent detection. The two methods are complementary, serving different purposes. Agent detection methods, such as PCR, are suited to early detection of infection and positive confirmation of current infection, but are susceptible to missing positive animals, particularly those not at the peak of infection. Antibody detection is potentially more sensitive and is able to detect positive animals for a longer period in convalescence or unapparent persistence following acute infection.

VMRD's FA substrate slide is designed for use as an antibody detection tool and can be used both qualitatively (positive or negative result) and semi-quantitatively (antibody titration). This tool has potential value for screening and surveillance and can also be used to evaluate the antibody levels of infected populations of swine.

“This product is yet another example of VMRD's ability to rapidly react with a high quality solution to a novel diagnostic problem,” said Ethan Adams, Vice President of VMRD. “While we are not certain that this slide will be our final answer to the need for a PEDV diagnostic, our broad FA reagent platform and expertise in FA enabled us to bring a high quality commercial serological assay to market very quickly.”

PEDV was first reported clinically in the UK in the 1970s and was identified as a coronavirus in 1978. Today it is classified as a single-stranded, positive-sense RNA group 1 Coronavirus infecting the small intestines of pigs and causing epidemic diarrhea. It has substantial economic impact due to high morbidity and mortality in piglets. Newborn piglets typically die within five days of contracting the virus whereas older pigs recover after about one week of illness. Prevention and control can be achieved by following appropriate biosecurity protocols.

On May 17, 2013, the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) confirmed a case of PEDV in the United States, and in 2014 on-farm cases of PEDV were confirmed in Canada. Recent evidence suggests that the epidemic may be spreading to Central and South America. It has infected more than 6 million pigs nationwide.

For more information, contact VMRD at 509-334-5815 or visit www.vmr.com.

About VMRD: VMRD was founded in 1981 by D. Scott Adams, DVM, PhD, and currently employs approximately 50 researchers, lab technicians and support personnel. From its site in Pullman, WA VMRD develops and manufactures diagnostic test kits and related reagents for distribution in more than 55 countries. As a rapidly growing company VMRD strives to preserve its family focused culture and core values of integrity and quality. Its mission to provide high quality products, services and support for customers and a harmonious and rewarding work environment for employees reflects and enforces the company's market reputation for delivering best in class products with a uniquely personal touch. As a result of this clear focus VMRD has a global impact on improvements in animal welfare through the diagnostic laboratories, animal producers, government agencies and veterinarians who use its products.

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