



**MIR and VWR International announce a mutual partnership agreement that will provide expanded development services for drug discovery research**

**West Chester, PA and Ann Arbor, MI, September 29, 2006**

MIR Preclinical Services (MIR), a Michigan-based Contract Research Organization (CRO), has joined with VWR International, Inc., to add preclinical in vivo pharmacology and unique imaging based services to the services offered by VWR through the VWR Biosciences Program. This program offers a full spectrum of research services to the drug discovery and life sciences industry. The VWR Biosciences program co-markets services from leading CRO's throughout the world. MIR is a CRO that is unique in its ability to combine traditional anti-cancer pharmacology with state-of-the-art preclinical imaging, such as MRI, small animal PET, CT, bioluminescence and fluorescence imaging.

MIR has established itself as a leader in traditional anti-cancer pharmacology and the application of state-of-the-art preclinical imaging to facilitate anticancer drug discovery." stated Frank Urban, business development manager at MIR. "A partnership with VWR is a real opportunity for MIR to offer its unique services to a global marketplace.

Zishan Haroon, M.D., Ph.D., general manager and global vice president, VWR BioSciences said "VWR BioSciences offers contract based research services covering basic science, discovery, development and clinical trials through a consortium of validated CROs. We are proud to announce the addition of MIR to our portfolio of service providers. MIR's unique capabilities in Imaging are unparalleled in industry and provide tremendous advantage in efficacy testing. We look forward to providing MIR services to our customers.

## About MIR Pre-clinical Services:

MIR is a contract research organization specializing in the application of state of the art, multimodality imaging technologies to the preclinical evaluation of novel drug candidates. The company boasts management with over 70 years of major pharma cancer drug discovery experience, and is a leader in the integration of traditional anti-cancer efficacy testing with clinically relevant imaging technologies to provide new insights to drug discovery and development. MIR offers a wide array of tumor models including human tumor xenograft, syngeneic, and transgenic models. The company is unique in its ability to apply non-invasive in vivo imaging modalities including preclinical MRI, X-ray micro-CT, high resolution preclinical PET, and bioluminescence and fluorescence imaging to visualize biological processes such as signal transduction, apoptosis and angiogenesis, and tumor growth. MIR actively collaborates with leading scientists in academia in developing new drug evaluation technologies with a view to publication results in peer reviewed journals.

## About VWR International, Inc.:

VWR International is a leader in the global research laboratory industry with worldwide sales of \$3.0 billion US dollars. VWR's business is highly diversified across a spectrum of products and services, customer groups and geography. The company offers more than 1,200,000 products, from more than 2,500 manufacturers, to over 250,000 customers throughout North America and Europe. VWR's primary customers work in the pharmaceutical, life science, chemical, technology, food processing and consumer product industries. Other important customers include universities and research institutes; governmental agencies; environmental testing organizations; and primary and secondary schools. VWR International affiliates operate in 20 countries and employ approximately 6,100 people. The company's mission is to deliver excellence in the distribution of scientific supplies. The VWR International Group is headquartered in West Chester, Pennsylvania. For more information on VWR International, phone 1-800-932-5000,

visit [www.vwr.com](http://www.vwr.com), or write, VWR International, Inc., 1310 Goshen Parkway, P.O. Box 2656, West Chester, PA 19380-0906.

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