



Press Release

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Synogen Portfolio Companies to Present at SEBIO November 7-8

Gainesville, FL – Synogen Development Group is pleased to announce that two of its portfolio companies were selected to present at the upcoming Southeastern BIO venture capital conference in Pinehurst, NC on November 7th and 8th. Xhale Diagnostics, Inc., a company developing breath-based technologies for medical diagnostic and pharmaceutical applications, has been selected as a main stage presenter while Optima Neuroscience, a company developing brain function monitoring for the ICU and other clinical settings was selected to compete in the early stage company presentations. The SEBIO Investor Forum is the Southeast region's premier life sciences venture capital conference. Attracting more than 400 attendees, including investors from the Southeast and from around the world, SEBIO showcases more than 30 emerging life sciences companies from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and beyond each year.

“These two local companies represent the incredible technology and talent we have here in the Southeast and are great examples of the Synogen model. Our approach is based on partnering with top University of Florida faculty to translate basic research in to real products that will improve the quality, efficiency and safety of healthcare”, said Synogen President, Stephanie Warrington.

Xhale Diagnostics is developing a line of breath-based devices that will detect the presence and/or concentration of various substances in the blood, replacing many conventional diagnostic tests. Among the first of Xhale's planned product lines is a breath-based medication adherence system for use in measuring the compliance of patients enrolled in clinical trials. The company's Self Monitoring and Reporting Therapeutics (SMART™) technology is a novel system enabling breath detectable versions of pharmaceuticals. SMART drugs release unique markers in the breath that are measured and identified with a small hand-held device. This system definitively confirms a patient has ingested the drug as prescribed and therefore offers the first accurate tool for adherence in monitoring clinical trials. Since pharmaceutical companies currently spend over \$30 billion on human clinical trials each year and need accurate patient data to support FDA approvals, Xhale CEO Richard Allen looks forward to pharmaceutical industry business development opportunities at SEBIO.

Xhale was formed in 2005 following six years of research and intellectual property development at the University of Florida. Synogen co-invested with the team of inventors to provide seed capital and an experienced management team. The company's scientific co-founders include Dr. Richard Melker and Dr. Donn Dennis of the University of Florida. To date, Xhale has leveraged the support of two local incubators with executive offices in Gainesville's privately managed Downtown Technology Center and 3,000 ft² of lab space at the UF's award-winning Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator in Alachua. However, having just



completed their Series B funding round, the company has plans for a new corporate headquarters in Gainesville in the near future.

Optima Neuroscience is an early stage biomedical technology company developing novel software, systems and devices for the diagnosis and treatment of neurological disorders. Optima's initial product lines feature devices for bedside neurological status monitoring in the ICU and other clinical settings. The company is developing software and hardware to perform automated seizure detection and prediction, as well as other brain function indicators, based on EEG signals from simple, disposable scalp electrodes. Optima's brain monitoring solutions are designed to alert nurses and other non-specialist clinical professionals when the patient is experiencing, or about to experience, a seizure or other neurological distress. Currently, only raw EEG signals are available at the bedside and these signals must be interpreted by an experienced electroencephalographer or neurologist. By the time the specialist's advice is obtained, it is often too late to prevent or mitigate the patient's distress. Optima's software uses complex proprietary algorithms to automatically analyze the EEG but displays the results in an easily understood, user friendly interface.

The company draws on years of research in EEG analysis to develop products designed to improve the quality of patient care for those suffering from acute and chronic neurological disorders. Synogen co-founded the company in 2005 with key inventors of the seizure prediction technologies, Dr. Chris Sackellares and Dr. Deng-Shan Shiau. Also located in the Downtown Technology Center, Optima is headed up by Synogen entrepreneur Dr. Ryan Kern.

Synogen is a seed-stage venture fund that partners in the creation of medical technology companies. In addition to seed capital, Synogen provides key services that are critical to the success of each start-up, including strategic planning, product development, business plan creation, branding, market research, assistance with patents and regulatory issues, and core management and financial functions. Synogen was founded by Richard R. Allen (currently CEO of Xhale Diagnostics) and Jamie Grooms (currently CEO of Axogen). Allen and Grooms were also co-founders of Regeneration Technologies (Nasdaq: RTIX). Synogen is located in Gainesville's Downtown Technology Center. For more information see www.synogen.com.

For more information on Xhale Diagnostics see www.xhale.com and for Optima Neuroscience see www.optimaneuro.com.