



Medolac Labs Leads the Way in Enhanced Infectious Disease Screening for Human Milk Donors

American Red Cross Testing Reveals First Undiagnosed Case of Chagas' Disease in Breast Milk Donor Candidate Blood Screening

LAKE OSWEGO, Ore., June 4, 2014 /PRNewswire-iReach/ -- Medolac Laboratories' enhanced donor blood screening has resulted in the first confirmed case of *Trypanosoma cruzi* (*T.Cruzi*) infection, the agent for Chagas' disease, for a milk donor applicant. Medolac's partnership with the American Red Cross has made it possible to expand existing donor screening protocols to include *T.Cruzi* and West Nile Virus. Medolac is currently the only milk banking organization with such extensive screening of breast milk donors. Medolac processes donor milk for the Mothers Milk Cooperative, the only milk bank owned by milk donors. Coop Donor Milk (tm) can be stored at room temperature and is the only commercially sterile donor milk product available worldwide.

The Red Cross reports that Chagas' disease is serious and often fatal. While the impact that Chagas' disease has on breast milk and breastfeeding is still unknown, an abundance of precaution is needed when supplying processed human milk to immune compromised and medically vulnerable infants in neonatal clinical settings. Medolac Laboratories was founded on a commitment to radically improve the safety and quality of donor milk. The company's testing program highlights the key role of donor blood screening in identifying and eliminating potential risks that have previously been unknown with respect to breast milk donors.

Through a blood screening partnership announced last October with the American Red Cross, Medolac has been able to identify and defer donor candidates who do not meet its rigorous testing standards and help these individuals seek treatment for any previously unknown medical conditions.

Elena Medo, Chairman and CEO of Medolac said, "This finding reinforces our strong belief that many traditional milk banking practices are inadequate from a safety point of view, especially for donor milk intended for neonatal hospital use. One thing is certain, if you don't test for it, you won't find it."

Robert Roggeman, Vice President, Testing, for the American Red Cross said "The Red Cross is pleased with the success of the Medolac donor testing program. The screening information collected complements our existing efforts to monitor the blood supply for threats from emerging infectious diseases, including Chagas' disease."

An FDA backgrounder on Human Milk Banking identified the need for robust testing protocols that can assess the risk of infectious diseases in human milk through rapidly available donor

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testing. The Red Cross collaboration has established an impressive array of blood tests that addresses those concerns, including tests to detect the presence of harmful viruses and parasites. These include additional test protocols that only Medolac presently requires including West Nile Virus and *T.Cruzi*, as well as standard testing for HIV 1 and 2, HTLV I, II, HBV, HCV and Syphilis.

About Medolac: Medolac Laboratories develops and commercializes innovative, human donor milk products for clinical use, applying proprietary biopharmaceutical processing methods that preserve many of the immune components in human milk. Medolac Laboratories is a Delaware registered corporation headquartered at Lake Oswego, Oregon in the Pacific Northwest of the United States.

About The American Red Cross: The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

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