

## **RIDGE DIAGNOSTICS ANNOUNCES FIRST BLOOD TEST FOR MAJOR DEPRESSIVE DISORDER**

Establishes CLIA Laboratory to Offer Depression Diagnostic Test

*San Diego, CA, April 7, 2009* – Ridge Diagnostics, Inc., is a San Diego based neurodiagnostic Company which in January 2009 opened their CLIA certified laboratory and began testing services for its first-in-class blood test for depression (Major Depressive Disorder). This unique blood test will aid psychiatrists and primary care physicians in the diagnosis and management of this complex condition.

“We are extremely pleased to announce the clinical availability of this important tool to aid in the diagnosis and management of depression. This is the first time a blood test has been shown effective in clinical studies for diagnosing and monitoring patients with this disorder. The test provides the long awaited proof of a biological basis for this neuropsychiatric condition,” stated Lonna J. Williams, Chief Commercial Officer. “Psychiatrists across the country have told us that up to 30% of their patients are difficult to manage or are non-compliant with treatment. This test provides evidence that depression is a psychological condition expressed by biological changes. Physicians believe it will improve the acceptance of the diagnosis and yield a higher level of treatment”.

Over 20 million patients are treated for depression each year in the United States. Antidepressant drugs were the single largest prescribed drug class in 2007. The differential diagnosis of depression can be difficult in some patients due to overlapping symptoms from other diseases or because of the subjective nature of the current diagnostic interview methods.

“Patients are also seeking a biological answer for their condition,” stated Ms. Williams. “Daily patients ask their psychiatrists and primary care physicians for a blood test for depression. A large demand exists for this product and we expect the market to be significant”.

Ridge Diagnostics, founded in 2006, completed the CLIA laboratory in December 2008 and began providing testing services to a select group of psychiatrists. The Company’s proprietary tests are based on panels of biomarkers that predictably shift when a patient is depressed. The Company is first in developing diagnostic assays using biological markers for diagnosing and monitoring treatment of neuropsychiatric diseases.

### **About Ridge Diagnostics**

Ridge Diagnostics is a neurodiagnostic company commercializing a breakthrough first-in-class, proprietary blood test for the diagnosis and treatment monitoring of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD). Products are based on a proprietary Human Biomarker Library and Hyper-Mapping™ technology. Ridge intends to develop a comprehensive neuropsychiatric disease diagnostic franchise. Ridge Diagnostics testing services will be provided through a CLIA certified laboratory in North Carolina, then through diagnostic test kits sold worldwide. The Company is based in San Diego, CA and Research Triangle Park, NC. [www.ridgedx.com](http://www.ridgedx.com)