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OPKO Point-of-Care Technology Demonstrated on Mobile Device with Cloud Connectivity to Diagnose and Track Disease in Africa

MIAMI--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- OPKO Health, Inc. (NYSE: OPK) announced that a [study](#) published online in *Clinical Chemistry*, and to be included in the April 2013 print issue, describes the application of OPKO's point-of-care system to mobile diagnostics, a major advance towards providing people in resource poor settings with laboratory-quality diagnostic services and directly integrating results with cloud-based patient records.

In collaboration with OPKO, [Samuel Sia](#), associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Columbia Engineering and cofounder of Claros Diagnostics (now OPKO Diagnostics), has demonstrated that their [lab-on-a-chip](#) technology can be used not only to check a patient's infectious disease status anywhere in the world with just a finger prick, but also synchronize the results automatically and instantaneously with central health-care records. The device was field-tested in Rwanda by a collaborative team from Professor Sia's lab and ICAP at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health.

According to Professor Sia, "We've built a handheld mobile device that can perform laboratory-quality testing in minutes on a finger stick drop of whole blood, and automatically synchronize the test results with patient health records across the globe using both cell phone and satellite networks." The core function of assay operation and real-time synchronization of diagnostic results with patient records in the cloud have all been incorporated onto a handheld mobile device and all powered by a battery.

Working with OPKO, ICAP, and the Ministry of Health, a local hospital, and two health clinics in Rwanda, Professor Sia and his team assessed the device's ability to perform HIV testing and then synchronized results in real time with the patients' electronic health records. They successfully tested serum, plasma, and whole blood samples, all of which were collected in Rwanda. Their research was funded by a \$2-million Saving Lives at Birth transition grant (United States Agency for International Development, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Government of Norway, Grand Challenges Canada, and the World Bank).

"This work not only demonstrates that the OPKO point-of-care technology could be implemented anywhere in the world," said Phillip Frost, M.D., Chairman and CEO of OPKO Health, "it also provides a glimpse into the potential of mobile health by integrating seamlessly and in real time with patient medical records."

Clinical Chemistry has also published an editorial reviewing this work by George Whitesides, Professor of Chemistry at Harvard University, the most cited author in the fields of chemistry and in microfluidics. According to the editorial, entitled "A glimpse into the Future of Diagnostics" the work "represents on brick in what will surely be the foundation of a

revolution that will fundamentally change the technical and business structure of diagnostics.”

About OPKO Health, Inc.

We are a multi-national biopharmaceutical and diagnostics company that seeks to establish industry-leading positions in large and rapidly growing medical markets by leveraging our discovery, development and commercialization expertise and our novel and proprietary technologies.

This press release contains "forward-looking statements," as that term is defined under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (PSLRA), which statements may be identified by words such as "expects," "plans," "projects," "will," "may," "anticipates," "believes," "should," "intends," "estimates," and other words of similar meaning, including statements regarding OPKO's point-of-care platform, its application to mobile diagnostics and ability to provide people in resource poor settings with laboratory-quality diagnostic services and automatically synchronize the test results with patient health records across the globe, the platform's ability to be implemented anywhere in the world, and the utility of the point-of-care system for diagnosing and tracking disease, as well as other non-historical statements about our expectations, beliefs or intentions regarding our business, technologies and products, financial condition, strategies or prospects. Many factors could cause our actual activities or results to differ materially from the activities and results anticipated in forward-looking statements. These factors include those described in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, as well risks inherent in funding, developing and obtaining regulatory approvals of new products and treatments. In addition, forward-looking statements may also be adversely affected by general market factors, competitive product development, product availability, federal and state regulations and legislation, the regulatory process for new products and indications, manufacturing issues that may arise, patent positions and litigation, among other factors. The forward-looking statements contained in this press release speak only as of the date the statements were made, and we do not undertake any obligation to update forward-looking statements. We intend that all forward-looking statements be subject to the safe-harbor provisions of the PSLRA.

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Source: OPKO Health, Inc.