



16 July, 2007

Pentax UK announces new training centre for endo-microscopy

- *Training infrastructure continues to expand*
- *First centre to offer training in paediatric applications*

Slough UK: Pentax UK announced late last week the creation of the Sheffield Academy of Endomicroscopy.

The academy is a joint venture between the Royal Hallamshire Hospital and the Sheffield Childrens' Hospital with sponsorship from Pentax UK and is being set up to offer training in adult and paediatric endo-microscopy procedures.

First enrollments are due for mid September.

Pentax UK announcement is included below.

Background

Optiscan is a global leader in microscopic imaging technologies for medical markets.

Optiscan's unique and patented technologies enable high-powered microscopes to be miniaturised and used inside the body. The technology enables microscopic imaging of up to 1000 times magnification to be achieved. Doctors can use the technology to instantly see cellular level details of tissue without the requirement to surgically remove tissue (biopsy).

Pentax has been licensed by Optiscan to use its patented miniaturised microscope technology in the US\$1.2Bn pa global flexible endoscope market.

Optiscan has also recently announced a collaboration with the Carl Zeiss Group in Germany for the use of its patented miniaturised microscope technology in rigid endoscopes in key Zeiss markets.

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Information

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The Sheffield Academy of Endomicroscopy launches with help from PENTAX Life Care

For a hi-res image please contact M.boersma@defacto.com

PENTAX Life Care today announced a joint venture with the Royal Hallamshire Hospital and the Sheffield Childrens' Hospital to launch the Sheffield Academy of Endomicroscopy. The purpose of the Academy is to offer participants introductory training in both Adult & Paediatric Endomicroscopy including in-depth knowledge about the technique and the clinical value of endomicroscopy.

The Sheffield Academy of Endomicroscopy will focus on using Confocal Endomicroscopy technology supplied by PENTAX Life Care. Confocal Endomicroscopy is a revolutionary new technology for endoscopic examinations, enabling endoscopists *in vivo* microscopic observation of mucosal tissues and dramatic subsurface imaging to a depth of approximately 250 microns. This allows them to perform real-time virtual biopsies and in many cases, the need to take a physical biopsy can be removed. This offers unparalleled benefits for patients, clinicians and healthcare institutions.

Structured training in endomicroscopic techniques, confocal image interpretation and in-vivo histology is essential to achieve competence in Endomicroscopy.

The course directors of the new Sheffield Academy of Endomicroscopy are Dr Paul Hurlstone, Consultant Gastroenterologist at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield, Dr Mike Thomson, Consultant Paediatric Gastroenterologist at the Sheffield Children's Hospital, Dr Simon Cross, Reader in Pathology at the University of Sheffield and Dr Nick Tiffin, Consultant Histopathologist at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital.

The first Endomicroscopy course will take place on 12th September. For registration details, please contact Pentax Life Care on 01753 792 723 or e-mail lifecare.info@pentax.co.uk.

It is anticipated that courses run by the Academy in Sheffield will contain various elements including live demonstrations, hands-on training, image interpretation teaching, technological reviews and updates and an overview of recent publications in the field of Endomicroscopy.

- Ends -

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