

EIKEN CHEMICAL CO., LTD. acquired FDA approval for FOBT reagent and analyzer, which are now on sale.

EIKEN CHEMICAL CO., LTD., its principle place of business at Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo (“Eiken”) acquired an FDA approval on October 21st for a fully automated fecal occult blood analyzer manufactured and distributed by itself.

EIKEN will commence its sales of the products in the US market in the middle of November.

EIKEN, NAGASE & CO., LTD., President: Hiroshi Nagase and its head office at Chuo-ku, Tokyo (“Nagase”) and POLYMEDCO Inc.* , President: Drew Cervasio and its headquarter in New York, the USA (“Polymedco”) have concluded the sales and purchase agreement. With this agreement, Eiken entrusts Polymedco to sell those products through Nagase.

The fecal occult blood test is a prevailing screening test for detection of colorectal cancer. It is mainstream in Japan to conduct the automated quantitative analysis based on immunological methods or simple immunological testing, utilizing antibodies to human hemoglobin.

Eiken’s products, such as fully automated fecal occult blood analyzer “OC” series, its reagents and simple immunochromatographic test “OC-Hemocatch Eiken”, are highly evaluated in Japan, and Eiken enjoys No.1 domestic sales performance.

On the other hand, the chemical method still remains predominant in the USA. However the US government has covered colorectal cancer screening using immunoassay fecal-occult blood testing since this year.

It is estimated that the size of the US fecal occult blood test market amounts to ¥ 10 billion, and is expected to expand further dramatically in the future, thanks to the promotions of screening for colorectal cancer by ACS and CDC and the introduction of immunoassay fecal-occult blood test kits with high sensitivity and specificity.

EIKEN considers those products as the first step of its global marketing strategy, and aims to dominate the US market as it successfully did domestically, utilizing the sales promotion based on its accumulated know-how and experience.

[Products]

- (1) Fully automated fecal occult blood analyzer “OC-Auto MICRO 80” * and its reagents, utilizing principles of Latex Particle Immuno Agglutination.

- (2) Simple Immunochromatographic test “Clearview ULTRA FOB Test”, manufactured for international distribution.

[For further information]

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<Glossary>

* POLYMEDCO Inc.

Polymedco Inc. is one of the American leading marketing and distribution companies in the clinical laboratory marketplace. Its sales force covers all over America. Major products are reagents for comprehensive and special equipment, POCT and so on. For further information, please visit the following website.

<http://www.polymedco.com>

* OC-Auto MICRO 80

OC-Auto MICRO 80, whose domestic product name is “OC-SENSOR μ ”, is a fully automated fecal occult blood analyzer newly released by Eiken in December 2000. It realized compact size, easy operation and highly accurate fully automated analysis. It is widely appreciated by facilities where used to conduct manual testing. More than 200 analyzers have been installed domestically.