

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New medical diagnostic App empowers patients

The Psoriatic Arthritis Screening Questionnaire (PASQ) App

St. John's, NL – One of the latest applications available for download from the Apple Store, the PASQ app has the potential to dominate in the area of early stage detection and diagnosis of a crippling disease. Dr. Majed Khraishi, a leading rheumatologist and co-founder and medical director of Nexus Clinical Research, developers of the PASQ, said they created the application because too many people in the early stages of psoriatic arthritis are slipping undetected through the public health system.

"If allowed to progress unchecked, psoriatic arthritis damages the joints and is associated with increased risk of heart disease and diabetes," Dr. Khraishi explained. "So, early detection is critical for the patient." However the early symptoms are not well known, even among most general practitioners and dermatologists. The Psoriatic Arthritis Screening Questionnaire, downloadable for free at the Apple store can help to change that situation. It was specifically developed and validated by Nexus at their clinical laboratories in St. John's Newfoundland, as a tool to aid in the detection of arthritis in patients with psoriasis.

Available in English , and soon to be available in French, Chinese and Spanish, the electronic PASQ is one of the first such medical diagnostic tools to be available in the App world and one of very few in any of the medical specialties.

Dr Khraishi said the PASQ is not meant to replace patient and doctor contract. "It provides physicians with a scientifically proven tool to identify this disease early and refer patients for further testing," he said. "However the app also empowers patients and patient support groups, especially those who do not have ready access to specialists, to take an active role in the early diagnosis of this disease."

The PASQ was first developed on paper during three years of clinical trials and a rigorous international scientific peer review. Once the science was confirmed, Nexus engaged NLRT, their technology arm, to manage the development of the electronic application.

Listed with Apple on November 8, 2010, the PASQ is simple and easy to use. Anyone with an internet connection can download it to their iPad. The iPhone and Android versions are in the works. The electronic questionnaire includes 10 questions plus a diagram of the body where users mark areas of pain and swelling. The total score from the questionnaire indicates whether or not the person being examined is likely to develop psoriatic arthritis. Where the results are positive the patient becomes a priority candidate for further diagnostic tests.

"Our research and development is at the leading edge of communication technology in the health care field," said Dr. Khraishi who revealed that Nexus Clinical Research has several other diagnostic tool applications in various stages of development. "When scientifically proven tools, such as the PASQ, are used to aid in health care management, it can lead to a streamlined public health service. In such a system the people with a positive result should be able to quickly access advanced testing and treatment in the earliest possible stage of their disease. Everyone wins," said Dr. Khraishi.

To download the PASQ free from Apple Store use search engine to find "PASQ App" or use the following link:
<http://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/pasq/id402206647?mt=8>

For More information online go to: www.nexusresearch.com or www.nlrt.ca

Media Contact: Dr. Majed Khraishi

Telephone: 709.726.3386

Facsimile: 709.726.5898

mkhraishi@nexusresearch.com

– 30 –

Backgrounder

ABOUT NEXUS CLINICAL RESEARCH

providing tomorrow's therapies today

Nexus Clinical Research was founded in 2004 by dermatologist Dr. Ian Landells, and rheumatologist Dr. Majed Khraishi. The cofounders are leading specialists in their respective fields. In just six years, Nexus Clinical Research has become one of the top medical research facilities in Canada. They have completed more than 160 Phase I, II, III and IV clinical trials for their own company and for major national players in clinical research. The Nexus research team has developed an extensive body of knowledge in adult and paediatric dermatology and rheumatology. Their results are subjected to rigorous scientific peer review, presented at major conferences and published in relevant scientific documents.

Among their key strategies is the fostering of partnerships to advance treatment, knowledge and prevention of disease. Another key strategy is the development of advanced communication technology tools (through their sister company: Newfoundland and Labrador Research Technologies: NLRT) with the understanding that these will be key components in a streamlined health care system where early diagnosis and early detection of disease will support advanced methods of treatment through prioritization of patients and minimization of cost impacts.

Majed Khraishi, MD
Medical Director, Rheumatology

Dr. Khraishi is medical director (rheumatology) at Nexus Clinical Research in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. His main areas of clinical research and treatment are in the therapeutics of rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis osteoarthritis and osteoporosis. He was an investigator in more than 70 clinical studies. His expertise and his scientific research capabilities are recognized internationally. Since 1991 he has advanced clinical treatment and research in his area of expertise at Nexus Clinical Research. He also serves as clinical professor of medicine at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

The results of his clinical research have been presented at major medical conferences, published widely, and affirmed by rigorous peer review.