

For Immediate Release

>>Signature microarray covers regions of the genome associated with autism

Spokane, Wash., 10 January 2008 – Signature Genomic Laboratories' flagship microarray, the SignatureChip Whole Genome™ (SignatureChipWG™), covers a region of the human genome that was recently associated with autism.

A [story](#) in the *New York Times* published today reports on a [study](#) by researchers from the Autism Consortium showing approximately 1% of individuals with autism have missing a small segment of the short arm of one of their chromosomes 16. The study, originally published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, corroborates findings published last month in the scientific journal *Human Molecular Genetics*, in which researchers from the University of Chicago and Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y. identified similar deletions in two children with autism.

The SignatureChipWG, the latest version of Signature's proprietary SignatureChip microarray, has extensive coverage of this region of chromosome 16. Since the introduction of the SignatureChipWG in November, Signature has recorded seven losses and four gains of the autism region among 1,283 cases tested.

In addition to the region recently reported, the SignatureChipWG covers over 30 regions of the genome associated with autism.

About Signature Genomic Laboratories, LLC

Signature Genomic Laboratories, founded in 2003, is a private company owned by Sacred Heart Medical Center, Pathology Associates Medical Laboratories, and its founders, Lisa G. Shaffer, PhD and Bassem A. Bejjani, MD. Located in Spokane, Washington, Signature operates a state-of-the-art molecular cytogenetic diagnostic service. It was the first laboratory to provide microarray-based cytogenetic diagnostics with its proprietary SignatureChip® and continues to be the leader in providing microarray-based chromosome analysis. Signature's worldwide client base includes clinical geneticists, neurologists, pediatricians, neonatologists, obstetricians, and the research community. Signature is CAP accredited, CLIA certified, and licensed in the state of Washington. Additional information about Signature is available at www.signaturegenomics.com.