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For Immediate Release:

## **Lucerno Dynamics Launches World's Largest Study on Radiotracer Injection Quality**

Morrisville, NC – (February 8, 2017) - Lucerno Dynamics LLC, a privately held medical device start-up in Research Triangle Park, NC, announced today they have initiated "**Lara – QI**", the world's largest quality improvement study on the radiotracer injection process for patients undergoing PET/CT imaging.

### **PET/CT Scanning Begins with a Radiotracer**

"To produce the highest quality PET/CT images, a prescribed dose of radiotracer is injected all at once into a patient's vein and circulation for about an hour of 'uptake' before a patient is imaged," said Ron Lattanze, CEO of Lucerno. "Any issue with the quality of the injection may compromise the image. Often times, the physician reviewing the image may be completely unaware that the injection was flawed."

The **Lara – QI** study, which will employ Lucerno's recently FDA-listed Lara™ System, aims first to assess the quality of participating centers' radiotracer injection processes and then will assess centers' ability to improve quality. Lara™ uses patient-friendly pads with small lightweight sensors on a patient's arms during the injection process and adds less than one minute to the patient's imaging experience.

### **10,000 patients in up to a dozen sites**

Lucerno plans to enroll more than 10,000 patients in up to a dozen sites around the country before the end of the year. Carilion Clinic, a not-for-profit healthcare organization based in Roanoke serving nearly one million Virginians, was the first PET/CT center site to be initiated. Their chair of radiology, Evelyn Garcia, MD, says she is "thankful that Carilion has an opportunity to pioneer an effort to improve PET/CT injection process as a leading site of the **Lara – QI** study."

"At Carilion," she said, "we are focused on continuously improving the quality of care we provide for our patients and our community. The Lara™ system will give us insight into a process that just can't be tracked today. We hope that this study will lead to better and faster diagnoses for our patients."

David W. Townsend Ph.D., co-inventor of the PET/CT scanner and **Lara – QI** co-principal investigator, observes that it is important to monitor the quality of a PET/CT scan, particularly when the outcome of

the scan has implications for assessing response to cancer therapy and subsequent management of the patient.

Townsend, who serves as director of the Singapore Clinical Imaging Research Centre and Professor of Radiology at the National University of Singapore, went on to say, “Lucerno’s Lara™ sensors can assess the quality of the injection process, removing at least one potential source of variability from the scan protocol with important implications for the patient.”

**Lara – QI** co-principal investigator Terence Z. Wong, MD, PhD, Professor of Radiology and Chief, Division of Nuclear Medicine at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, noted that patients’ anatomy and differing techniques from one PET/CT center to another can cause variability in the injection process.

“Today there is no reliable way for nuclear medicine physicians or radiologists to assess the quality of the injection process as they review a patient’s PET/CT image,” Wong said. “Initiating and completing the **Lara – QI** study is an important step toward understanding what happens during a patient’s uptake period and could help us improve the quantitative capabilities of PET/CT imaging.”

Lattanze of Lucerno said he believes that the work they are doing with Carilion Clinic and future **Lara – QI** sites “will be great for patients, providers, and payers.”

“We’re excited to get the study underway,” Lattanze said. “I have been very impressed with Dr. Jackson Kiser, James Crowley and the Carilion technologist team. They are continuously focused on standardizing protocols to produce the highest quality PET/CT imaging for their patients. PET/CT scanning has proven to be the most advanced clinical tool to stage a patient’s cancer. And now as PET/CT becomes more quantitative to help assess response to therapy, there is a need to ensure the highest level of quality assurance and quality control is in place. Lucerno believes the **Lara – QI** study can help make this happen.”

Funding to Lucerno for the **Lara – QI** study was provided by the North Carolina Biotechnology Center.

*Founded in 2011, Lucerno Dynamics LLC is a Morrisville, NC, medical device company that is focused on the development, manufacturing, and marketing of systems to detect and quantify the presence of radiolabeled biomarkers. For more information, visit [www.lucernodynamics.com](http://www.lucernodynamics.com).*

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