



## **Asuragen Announces Launch of Xpansion Interpreter, a Test for AGG Mapping of the Fragile X Gene, in its CAP Accredited CLIA Laboratory**

**Austin, Texas – Date: Oct 27, 2011** - Asuragen announced today the launch of [Xpansion Interpreter™](#) through the Asuragen Clinical Services Laboratory. Xpansion Interpreter is the first clinically available test for definitively determining the number and location of AGG interruptions within the Fragile X gene enabling a better understanding of an individual's risk of having a child with Fragile X syndrome. The availability of this information further enhances genetic counseling of women undergoing carrier testing for Fragile X syndrome.

Fragile X syndrome is the most common inherited cause of cognitive delays. People with Fragile X syndrome have a range of symptoms from learning disabilities to mental retardation, behavioral differences, and certain physical features. Fragile X syndrome results from an increased number of CGG repeats within a region of the Fragile X gene on the X chromosome. Carrier testing for Fragile X syndrome has become more common in recent years and involves determining the number of CGG repeats, which correlates to the likelihood for a woman to have a child with Fragile X syndrome.

AGG interruptions within the CGG repeats have long been suggested to stabilize alleles to protect against expansion which leads to Fragile X, yet to date, genetic counselors have only been able to rely on the total number of CGG repeats to assess the risk of expansion. To better understand how AGG interruptions modify the risk for expansion, Asuragen scientists collaborated with experts in Fragile X syndrome in a large, multicenter study. The researchers examined CGG repeats and AGG interruptions in 456 mother-to-child transmissions for carriers of alleles with 45-69 total repeats. The study showed a clear modification of the probability of expansion, of variable sizes and degrees, when the number and location of AGG interruptions and uninterrupted CGG repeats was considered.

“The launch of Xpansion Interpreter builds upon Asuragen’s proven innovation in its signature technology AmplideX™, Asuragen’s current CGG repeat primed PCR research reagents”, stated Matt Winkler, Ph.D., CEO of Asuragen. “With the ability to clinically determine the number and location of AGG interruptions, the long-time problem of determining the stability of certain Fragile X alleles becomes more clear, creating opportunities to improve patient care.”

### **About Asuragen, Inc.**

Asuragen is a fully integrated diagnostic development company and pharmaceutical services provider. The Company’s diagnostic product portfolio consists of the first-ever validated microRNA diagnostic assay for pancreatic cancer, quantitative RNA tests for leukemia gene translocations, innovative genetic testing solutions for the fragile X mental retardation (FMR1) gene, Signature® Oncology products for the qualitative detection of gene translocations and mutations in a variety of hematological and solid tumors, RNA stabilization technologies, and industry-leading controls and standards engineered using its patented Armored RNA® technology. Asuragen is empowered with a high level of scientific expertise and assay development capabilities, CLIA and GLP testing services, and an established cGMP manufacturing facility, which allow it to span the spectrum of discovery, testing, production and commercialization. For more information, visit [www.asuragen.com](http://www.asuragen.com).

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