

**Testing for chronic, excessive alcohol consumption
Concateno presents EtG detection experience**

Society of Hair Testing, Rome, June 14-16 2008

Concateno, Europe's largest provider of drug and alcohol testing services, presented its expertise in testing for Ethyl Glucuronide (EtG) as a marker for long-term alcohol use at the Society of Hair Testing's annual meeting in Rome.

Delivered by Concateno's Dr Robert Kingston to the world's leading hair testing scientists, the presentation set out the company's experience of EtG testing – which began following demands for evidence of alcohol use in family law and child care cases.

Concateno gained ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation for detecting EtG in hair in March 2008. Since then, it has performed more than 5,000 tests.

"EtG analysis determines low to medium alcohol consumption that may be at a reasonable social level, and that which is higher, and may therefore represent a serious dependency problem," explained Dr Kingston.

He added: "It is particularly interesting to see how test results compare to self-declared alcohol levels, and we can also determine whether an individual's consumption has decreased over time.

"EtG testing is proving popular with UK courts and our sample numbers are increasing rapidly."



Founded in 1995, the Society of Hair Testing aims to:

- Promote research in hair testing technologies in forensic, clinical and occupational sciences
- Develop international proficiency tests
- Encourage scientific cooperation and exchanges among members

ENDS

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An introduction to Concateno

Concateno (www.concateno.com) brings together the leading drug and alcohol testing organisations in Europe to form a global first in the field: a service provider with the facilities and expertise to genuinely deliver test programmes to meet any requirement – from point-of-care instant tests, through to state-of-the-art laboratory analysis for any biological specimen including urine, oral fluids, hair and sweat.

Concateno's 300 staff support more than 8,000 customers globally, and the group performs approximately eight million tests annually. An integrated network of more than 500 sample collection officers, trained in-house in chain-of-custody procedures, supports clients around the world.

Committed to the highest levels of accreditation and quality assurance, Concateno works actively within the industry to improve existing best practice. This includes ISO 17025 (independently audited by UKAS), ISO9001:2000, Link-Up, and ISO13485:2003. In addition, the company is subject to a range of external and internal quality assurance programmes.

Our strategy

Concateno's goal is to be the top provider of drug and alcohol testing services in the world, providing the best expertise and testing resources in the field. With our own best-in-class products and facilities that can supply across the whole range of test requirements, our strategy is driven by customer need rather than product benefit.

Concateno has committed significant investment to research and development. Our joint development agreement with Philips (a diversified health and wellbeing company) to develop a new oral fluids system is an example of this commitment.

Excellent pedigree

Concateno is built upon the consolidation of Europe's strongest and most expert drug testing companies:

Cozart: long-established expertise in oral fluid instant testing (including its pioneering Rapiscan® and DDS® reader devices) and the manufacture of laboratory Reagents and products – largely through its wholly-owned subsidiary Spinreact, headquartered in Spain.

Medscreen: Europe's most experienced workplace testing company with a 20 year track record in providing legally defensible urine testing to employees and the UK government

Altrix Healthcare: largest provider of oral fluids drugs of abuse laboratory testing to the UK healthcare market. Complemented with a blood-borne virus testing service and range of support services focused on client treatment needs

TrichoTech: Europe's largest hair testing laboratory with unrivalled knowledge and expertise

Euromed: supplies a comprehensive range of point-of-collection testing devices with a proven track record on quality assurance and technical support, underscored by its long-standing contract with HM Prison Service