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February 6, 2007

Life sciences in brief

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Roche wins approval for new heart device

Roche Diagnostics has received government approval for a new device that allows people with a heart condition called atrial fibrillation to monitor their coagulation.

The Indianapolis-based company's CoaguCheck XS System gives patients instant information about their level of anticoagulant with one drop of blood obtained from a finger stick.

More than 2.2 million Americans have atrial fibrillation and are usually put on lifelong anticoagulation therapy to thin their blood in order to avoid strokes or blood clots, the company said.

-- *Star report*

New imaging system studies single molecules

A Purdue University researcher has created an imaging system to help scientists view tiny biological molecules, including genetic building blocks such as DNA and RNA.

The system, designed by Peixuan Guo, is billed as far more sensitive and powerful than existing optical microscopes and uses a laser combiner to control the release of two or more lasers as the light source. The system is called a single-molecule dual viewing total internal reflection fluorescence imaging system (SMDV-TIRF).

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Entrepreneurs can learn about startup funding

Budding entrepreneurs can learn how to secure funding for a new business, especially in the life sciences or biotech sector, at a seminar at Purdue University's Discovery Park on Feb. 28.

Free and open to the public, the seminar will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Burton D. Morgan Center for Entrepreneurship, 1201 W. State St., West Lafayette. Online registration is available at www.purdue.edu/dp/bdm/termsheet.

-- *Star report*

Key medical concerns topic of Saturday forum

A range of life-science concerns, involving interventional neurology, antithrombotic treatment, "sick fat" therapies and drug-eluting stents will be discussed Saturday at the 5th annual Parkview Research Center Symposium in Fort Wayne.

The event, to be held at the Grand Wayne Center, 120 W. Jefferson Blvd., is free but open to medical professionals only. Attendance may count for continuing education credits. Registration is required. Call (260) 373-8180 for more information.

-- *Star report*

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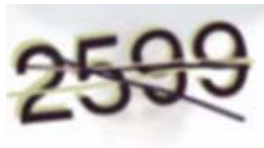
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