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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Software Analysis Tool for Methylation Specific Multiplex-Ligation dependent Probe Amplication (MS-MLPA)

December 15, State College PA **SoftGenetics** announced the latest release of it's GeneMarker® software which includes a special analysis and reporting module for use with MRC Holland's Methylation Specific MLPA kits for the detection of genomic imprinting diseases such as Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) and Angelman Syndrome (AS). GeneMarker provides a complete analysis tool from data acceptance, DNA fragment sizing, normalization and patient reporting in a very user friendly Windows® environment. The software accepts data from all major capillary electrophoresis systems including ABI Prism®, Beckman-Coulter and MegaBACE systems.

Classic examples of genomic imprinting are Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) and Angelman Syndrome (AS) . PWS is a genetic disorder in which several genes on chromosome 15 are missing or unexpressed on the paternal chromosome. Deletion of the same region on the maternal chromosome causes Angelman syndrome. Normal (wildtype) individuals have one copy of the unmethylated paternal allele and one copy of the methylated maternal allele. Because the methylation pattern of each parental chromosome is known, the methylation pattern of the undeleted or functional chromosome 15 region can be used to determine the chromosome's origin. Other genetic diseases related to genomic imprinting through DNA methylation include Beckwith-Wiedemann Syndrome (BWS) and Russell-Silver Syndrome (RSS).

GeneMarker software when successfully paired with the Multiplex Ligation-dependent Probe Amplification (MLPA®) technique for detecting genetic deletions and duplications in various diseases including cancer provides clinical users a robust, user-friendly analytical tool. Recently, the MLPA technique has been improved to detect methylation sites within promoter regions and for genomic imprinting applications. Promoter Methylation kits from MRC-Holland include ME001B Tumor Suppressor, ME002 Tumor Suppressor, and ME011 for MisMatch Repair genes. Genomic Imprinting kits from MRC-Holland include ME028 PWS-AS and ME030 BWS-RSS. GeneMarker's new Methylation Specific – MLPA (MS-MLPA) module quickly and accurately detects methylation sites for researchers studying promoter methylation and genomic imprinting diseases. GeneMarker's ease of use and professional reporting options are an excellent choice for MS-MLPA applications.

Interested users may down load a no cost 30-day trial of GeneMarker from the SoftGenetics web site: www.softgenetics.com

SoftGenetics, member of ABI software community, specializes in the development of genetic analysis tools for both research and diagnostic applications. Trademarks of SoftGenetics software tools are advanced technologies, providing exceptional accuracy, and sensitivity in an easy-to use Windows® user interface.