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DermTech Announces Basal Cell Carcinoma Study Expanding Clinical Applications for Platform Technology

SAN DIEGO (October 14, 2015) –Today, DermTech, Inc., a privately held dermatology company commercializing non-invasive gene expression tests for skin cancer, announced they have begun enrolling patients in an Institutional Review Board approved, multicenter study for gene expression associated with basal cell carcinoma. Basal cell carcinoma will be the second product derived from DermTech's Adhesive Skin Biopsy platform technology. DermTech's Pigmented Lesion Assay helps clinicians non-invasively assess and differentiate unclear pigmented lesions including malignant melanomas from benign nevi (often referred to as moles). Positive feedback and demand from both dermatologists and patients highlighted the need to make DermTech's technology available to patients with other types of skin cancer including basal cell carcinoma. Basal cell carcinoma is the most common type of skin cancer with approximately 30% of Caucasians developing basal cell carcinoma within their lifetime. Over 4.5 million surgical biopsies for basal cell carcinoma are performed in the U.S. annually leading to fewer than 3 million confirmed diagnoses.

Confirmation of basal cell carcinoma diagnosis is required by a growing number of insurance providers prior to costly tumor removal by MOHS surgery. Additionally, approximately 80% of basal cell carcinomas occur in cosmetically sensitive areas such as the head or neck where a non-invasive alternative to a surgical biopsy is needed. These lesions can be difficult for physicians to differentiate from benign lesions and from other non-melanoma skin cancers.

'Most patients prefer a reliable non-invasive test over an invasive surgical one. DermTech's products have additional utility and benefit in patients with lesions in cosmetically sensitive areas, anti-coagulated patients, and patients with compromised wound healing', said Dr. Burkhard Jansen, Vice President Clinical Development.

ABOUT DermTech

DermTech is a commercial stage molecular dermatology company developing non-invasive gene expression tests to aid the clinical diagnosis of skin cancer and other skin conditions. DermTech operates a CLIA licensed laboratory located in the company's La Jolla, CA headquarters. DermTech's technology allows the analysis of skin biopsy samples collected *non-invasively* using an adhesive patch. DermTech provides highly accurate, objective information to the physicians to improve care and reduce costs. Current dermatologic diagnosis is primarily based on subjective visual pattern recognition that is prone to error and results in a substantial number of unnecessary surgical procedures. For additional information visit: www.dermtech.com.