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SpectraCell Laboratories Now Measures Vitamin K

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Houston, TX- May 29, 2009. Beginning in June, SpectraCell Laboratories will add vitamin K to its menu of innovative micronutrient testing, which measures functional deficiencies of over 30 key nutrients in the body. The test enables a clinician to diagnose a subclinical vitamin K deficiency well before acute deficiency symptoms appear.

The demand for a functional vitamin K test has increased in recent years as research emerges linking vitamin K with bone health, cardiovascular health and even reduced rates of cancer. Its primary function is to aid in the formation of clotting factors and bone proteins. Vitamin K is crucial for the prevention of osteoporosis, as it binds calcium and other minerals to the bone.

SpectraCell's micronutrient testing measures vitamin K2. Vitamin K exists in three forms: K1, a natural form found in plants (phylloquinone); K2, which is synthesized in the intestine (menaquinone); and K3, a synthetic form that must be activated in the liver (menadione). It is typically covered by conventional insurance and Medicare. When a vitamin K deficiency is present, SpectraCell provides recommendations to assist doctors and patients on repleting the vitamin safely and effectively.

"Vitamin K has been receiving considerably more attention lately since we now recognize that it has other healthy functions in addition to blood clotting and bone formation" says Dr. Fred Crawford, Vice President and Laboratory Director at SpectraCell. He adds, "In addition, vitamin K may be involved in the prevention and reversal of arterial calcification and in reducing inflammation. Vitamins have multiple functions in the body, and we often do not know the mechanism of the benefit, but clinical evidence is rapidly growing that deficiencies compromise health."

SpectraCell is also expanding its laboratory testing services to include the following chemistry panel: Total Protein, Albumin, Prealbumin, Iron, Total Iron Binding Capacity (TIBC), and Ferritin. This is a traditional blood test performed when evaluating the nutritional status of a patient as it measures proteins and iron in the blood. Although these tests are not part of their acclaimed micronutrient testing, which is both a *long-term* and *functional* assessment of nutritional status, the expanded chemistry panel offers patients the convenience of getting routine blood work analyzed by the same laboratory as their specific nutritional deficiencies.

About SpectraCell Laboratories – SpectraCell is a CLIA accredited laboratory that services healthcare providers nationwide by providing advanced clinical testing with micronutrient testing and the Lipoprotein Particle Profile™ (LPP).

SpectraCell's micronutrient testing is an innovative assessment of a patient's nutritional status. Unlike traditional serum, hair and urine tests, SpectraCell's micronutrient testing measures how an individual's white blood cells function in specific nutritional environments. Over 31 vitamins,

minerals, amino acids and antioxidants are evaluated. As a result, individual differences in metabolism, age, genetics, health, prescription drug usage, absorption rate and other factors are taken into consideration.

SpectraCell's Lipoprotein Particle Profile™ is the most advanced lipoprotein test available. Unlike traditional cholesterol tests, SpectraCell's LPP™ directly measures both the size and number of several classes of lipoprotein particles providing an accurate assessment of cardiovascular risk.
