**Backgrounder and Milestones**

Avellino Labs, based in Menlo Park, California, has developed a unique DNA Test for LASIK and Refractive Surgery Safety. LASIK, an elective procedure, is one of the safest medical procedures available and outcomes almost always exceed patient expectations. Advances in genetic diagnostics are changing what is possible in terms of preventive and predictive medicine, enabling eye care professionals to screen otherwise good LASIK and refractive surgery candidates for previously undetectable conditions, and in the process genetic science is closing the gap between excellent and perfect. To date, Avellino Labs has screened over half-million laser vision correction candidates and identified more than 500 with genetic predisposition to corneal dystrophy that are therefore contraindicated for laser vision correction. Our global data to date suggests that about one in one thousand individuals are genetically predisposed to develop Corneal Dystrophy.

The company’s patent protected test provides fast, accurate and affordable results.  It screens for Granular Corneal Dystrophy Type 1 (GCD-1), Granular Corneal Dystrophy Type 2 (GCD-2), Classic Lattice (LCD-1), Reis-Bucklers, and Thiel Behnke Corneal Dystrophies. Based on the DNA test results, patients and their physician can make an informed decision when considering vision correction surgery. Corneal Dystrophy is an inherited eye condition that may not be detected until “triggered” by laser vision correction or other trauma to the cornea and symptoms include white spots in the cornea which effect vision. The corneal dystrophy gene mutations detected by the Avellino DNA Test are autosomal dominant hereditary disorders involving the TGFBI gene which is located at the fifth-chromosome in humans.

The Avellino DNA Test for LASIK Safety has been recognized as transformative global health technology by The World Economic Forum (WEF) which named Avellino Labs a 2015 Technology Pioneer ([http://www.weforum.org/techpioneers](http://www.weforum.org/techpioneers%20/)). Avellino Labs was selected based on its unique story and potential to transform and impact global health. Past recipients include Google (2001), Wikimedia (2007), Mozilla (2007), Kickstarter (2011) and Dropbox (2011). Testing is performed in our own CLIA certified lab in Menlo Park, California and has been qualified as 100% accurate with no false positives in clinical trials.

The DNA safety test for LASIK involves a simple cheek swab that takes under 30 seconds to complete. Sample collection is quick, simple, and painless. In most cases, Avellino provides next-day test results via a secure physician web portal.

**Making LASIK Vision Correction Surgery Safer**

Until recently, there was no objective test available to detect Corneal Dystrophy genetic predisposition for the approximately 350,000 U.S. patients who choose to receive LASIK surgery each year.

Testing for Corneal Dystrophy begins with a consultation between the patient and his or her ophthalmologist regarding the patient’s interest in having genetic testing prior to the LASIK procedure. If the physician determines the patient is qualified for LASIK, the ophthalmologist moves forward with the Avellino DNA Test by collecting DNA samples with a simple cheek swab. The sample is then sent to Avellino Labs and the results are provided to the ophthalmologist the next day in most cases. With the test results in hand, patients and their physicians can make an informed decision about whether or not to proceed with laser vision correction.

**Global Network**

Gene Lee founded Avellino Labs in South Korea in 2008. The Avellino DNA Test was initially developed in South Korea and in 2010 was introduced in Japan. It is now the standard of care for laser vision correction patients in both countries. In 2012 the company’s laboratory in Silicon Valley came online followed by the laboratory in Shanghai in 2015. Today Avellino operates 9 DNA testing laboratories in Japan, South Korea, China, the United States. Our test is available in more than 50 countries countries through a network of distribution partners.

**Company Milestones**

2008 - Avellino Laboratory Inc. founded by Gene Lee

2008 – DNA test developed to screen for Avellino Corneal Dystrophy (GCD-2)

2009 – First customer in Korea

2010 – Avellino Lab Japan comes online

2010 – First customer in Japan

2011 –Avellino Lab USA incorporated

2012 – Avellino Lab USA receives CLIA certification and comes online

2013 – First Customer in the United States

2014 – Test expanded to screen for 2 of the most common types of corneal dystrophy

2015 – Test expanded to screen for 5 of the most common types of corneal dystrophy

**Avellino Lab Management Team**

Gene Lee – Founder and Chairman

Peter Falzon - CEO

Scott Korney – COO

Michael Shuler – VP of Strategic Accounts

Grace Lytle, OD MS – Senior Medical Director

Benedetto Sgroi – Director of International Sales and Marketing

Spencer Hiraki, Ph.D. – Laboratory Director

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