



ELLEX MEDIA RELEASE

# Ellex to Address Latest Innovations in Nanopulse Laser Technology

**Adelaide, South Australia, 21 August 2012**

## **Ellex to Address Latest Innovations in Nanopulse Laser Technology**

Ellex Medical, a manufacturer and distributor of ophthalmic technology for use in the fight against blindness, today announced that it will hold an educational symposium to address the latest advances in nanosecond laser technology in ophthalmology.

Since the introduction of the first ophthalmic lasers in the 1950s, significant research and development has been undertaken to maximize the therapeutic effect of laser therapy whilst minimizing collateral damage. Ellex has been at the forefront of this effort, helping pioneer the commercialization of nano-pulsed **selective laser trabeculoplasty (SLT)** for the treatment of glaucoma, as well as developing its breakthrough nano-pulsed **Retinal Rejuvenation Therapy (Ellex 2RT™)** for the treatment of retinal disease.

Hosted on Saturday, 8 September as part of the EuroTimes Satellite Education Programme, in parallel with the XXX Meeting of the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS), the symposium will feature a panel of industry experts, including Robyn Guymer, MB, BS, PhD, FRANZCO, Head of Macular Research at the Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA).

Symposium highlights will include:

### **2RT for Retinal Disease**

Over 10 years in the making, **Retinal Rejuvenation Therapy (Ellex 2RT™)** is a non-thermal, nanosecond laser therapy that stimulates a natural, biological healing response in the eye to treat a range of degenerative retinal diseases.

Prof. Guymer, lead 2RT clinical investigator, will address symposium delegates regarding the latest clinical results for Ellex 2RT™ in the treatment of Early AMD.



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AMD is a progressive disease affecting the central area of the retina, and is the leading cause of blindness in the developed world. Globally, the early form of the disease accounts for up to 80% of all cases of AMD. To date, no treatment exists to halt the progression of AMD to its advanced stage, which is associated with severe vision loss.

Clinical trials have been conducted to validate the efficacy of Ellex 2RT™ in the treatment of patients with bilateral high-risk early AMD, with a follow-on, multi-center, randomized control trial now underway in Australia, Europe and the USA.

According to Prof. Guymer: “Our research shows that application of 2RT treatment is safe and painless, and results in both improved visual function and drusen resolution.”

“This is an extremely positive result. To date there has been no proven intervention in Early AMD that significantly halts or causes regression of the disease process,” added Prof. Guymer.

Ellex 2RT™ is currently indicated for the treatment of diabetic eye disease, and recently received a CE Mark (European Conformity) for the treatment of Diabetic Macular Edema (DME).

### **SLT for Glaucoma**

Another innovation to be presented at the symposium is the use of **SLT in the treatment of glaucoma**. Non-invasive and non-thermal, SLT is a nanosecond laser therapy which stimulates a natural healing response in the body to manage the elevated intraocular pressure associated with glaucoma. Highly effective, SLT is used as a primary treatment option for the early stages of glaucoma, and can be used in combination with drug therapy or as an alternative therapy when drugs fail.

Carlo Lovisolo, MD, Medical Director, Chief Surgeon and Owner at the Quattroelle Eye Center in Milan, Italy, will share his insight regarding the use of SLT as a primary therapy option. Having used SLT for over five years, Dr. Lovisolo has experienced strong patient demand for the treatment.

“My patients’ interest in SLT has been remarkable, and this has had a striking effect in my practice,” commented Dr. Lovisolo.

“The concept of stimulating a natural response to manage IOP is appealing to patients, who tend to prefer treatments that do as little as possible to conflict with the natural biological actions of the body.”

### **Laser Vitreolysis for Floaters**

Dr. Jaap Dito, Opsis Eye Hospital, the Netherlands, will update symposium participants regarding the use of nanosecond YAG laser technology to treat vitreous strands, also known as floaters.



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As the eye ages the clear vitreous gel in the back of the eye can degenerate, forming clumps which cast shadows on the retina. These moving shadows are commonly referred to as floaters. Until now, the treatment of floaters has been highly invasive, requiring the surgical removal of the vitreous. In contrast, nanosecond laser technology offers the opportunity for outpatient-based treatment, which may delay or obviate the need for surgery. In his presentation, Dr. Dito will shed light on the treatment of floaters using nanosecond YAG laser technology, sharing his tips and techniques for effective patient outcomes.

John Marshall, PhD, FRCPATH, FRCOphth (Hon), an internationally recognized expert in ophthalmology, and head of the Academic Department of Ophthalmology at King's College, University of London, will moderate the symposium. For more than 40 years, Prof. Marshall has pursued the development of lasers in ophthalmology, helping develop the Excimer laser for correcting refractive disorders and the first diode laser for treating eye complications among patients with diabetes, glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

For more information regarding the Ellex symposium at ESCRS, and to register to attend, please visit the Ellex website, [www.ellex.com/2012/escrs-symposium](http://www.ellex.com/2012/escrs-symposium).

### ABOUT ELLEX

Ellex (Ellex Medical Lasers Limited) is a global leader in the design and manufacture of ophthalmic laser and ultrasound systems used by ophthalmologists to diagnose and treat eye disease. With more than 16,000 systems delivered to the market, Ellex has evolved since 1985 from a manufacturing company of primarily OEM products, to direct marketing of its own branded products through subsidiaries in the United States, Japan, Germany and Australia, and a network of distribution partners in more than 100 countries.

For more information about Ellex and its products, please visit [www.ellex.com](http://www.ellex.com)

### ABOUT SLT FROM ELLEX

Ellex is the global leader in lasers to treat glaucoma, with more than 1500 glaucoma experts outside of the US choosing to rely on SLT from Ellex. Ophthalmologists use our Tango™ and Solo™ SLT lasers to deliver short pulses of low-energy light that trigger the body's natural healing mechanisms. This process reduces the elevated intraocular pressure (IOP) associated with glaucoma

- The **Tango™ SLT/YAG combination laser** system allows you to instantly switch between SLT and photodisruptor modes at the touch of a button – making procedures as efficient as possible.
- The **Solo™ SLT laser** enables you to provide your glaucoma patients with quick and highly accurate SLT treatment, maximizing treatment options and ensuring effective patient results.

For more information about SLT from Ellex, visit [www.slt-ellex.com](http://www.slt-ellex.com)



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### ABOUT ELLEX 2RT

Over 10 years in the making, Retinal Rejuvenation Therapy (Ellex 2RT™) is a non-thermal laser therapy that stimulates a natural, biological healing response in the eye. Unlike conventional laser treatment, Ellex 2RT does not cause permanent collateral damage to the sensitive structures of the eye.

The Ellex 2RT™ laser applies short nanosecond pulses of low-energy light to stimulate a process of cellular rejuvenation to preserve and/or improve functional vision, reducing disease progression. This breakthrough approach retains the therapeutic effect of laser therapy whilst eliminating the thermal tissue damage inherent in conventional retinal photocoagulation laser treatment.

Ellex 2RT™ is performed using a novel laser device™ designed and manufactured by Ellex.

For more information about Ellex 2RT™, visit [www.ellex.com/2RT](http://www.ellex.com/2RT)

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