

## PRESS RELEASE

## Gradientech and the European Reference Laboratory for Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing receive grants for strategic innovation in healthcare

**Uppsala, Sweden, 7 June 2016** - Medtech industry operating in Sweden has a leading position globally thanks to a unique research- and innovation culture. To maintain its world-leading position, and strengthen collaborations between academia, health care and industry to result in improved health solutions, a *Medtech4Health* innovation program was approved by the Swedish Innovation Agency last year. Uppsala-based Gradientech, together with the Reference Laboratory of the European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST), based at the Växjö Central Hospital and headed by Prof. Gunnar Kahlmeter, are among the first collaborations to receive Medtech4Health grants. The 1 year collaborative project receive 1,3 mkr in grants.

Gradientech is developing an ultra-rapid diagnostic solution for Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing (AST) of blood from sepsis patients. AST diagnostics shows which antibiotic treatment that is the effective one for the patient, and which antibiotics that the bacteria have become resistant to. The diagnostic solution by Gradientech generates results within 2 hours, which is at least 20 hours faster compared to the reference method used in the hospital laboratories today. Rapid AST is advantageous for the patient himself, contributes to combat the increasing antibiotic resistance, and saves money for the hospital due to shorter patient stays.

The EUCAST organization harmonizes the European antibiotic susceptibility testing guidelines and sets the breakpoints for when a bacteria strain is considered resistant or not to an agent. Its reference laboratory for bacteria is part of the clinical microbiology laboratory at Växjö Central Hospital, Sweden, and offers advice and troubleshooting to clinical microbiology laboratories all over the world. The EUCAST laboratory will guide Gradientech in the verification of its new AST diagnostic solution, and provide relevant bacteria strains for method verification that are difficult to collect via local clinical samples, due to so far low resistance occurrence in Sweden.

Further information on the QuickMIC™ diagnostic solution currently in development by Gradientech is available on <http://gradientech.se/quickmic/>

Further information on EUCAST and its Reference Laboratory is available on <http://www.eucast.org/>

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**About Gradientech**

Gradientech is a young, expanding life science company that develops and sells innovative, cutting-edge microfluidic products and software solutions for advanced cell studies – our customers are academic and industrial researchers within areas like cancer- and immune cell research. We develop a diagnostic platform for ultra-rapid antibiotic susceptibility testing (AST) of blood culture samples, based on our core microfluidic technology. Innovative solutions for rapid AST diagnostics are essential to combat the escalating global problem of antibiotic resistance.