PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Research Illustrates Need for Effective Sanitation to Combat Resilient Bacteria

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--June 20, 2005--Ecolab Inc. presented scientific research at the 2005 Association of Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology (APIC) meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, on the survival of bacteria after 11 weeks on bed linen, acrylic fingernails and plastic keyboard covers.

The study included two strains of vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus faecium (VRE) that were grown in a controlled lab and deposited on samples of bed linen, plastic computer keyboard covers and acrylic fingernails. Test surface samples were held at room temperature and tested periodically for up to 11 weeks. After the test period, detectable levels of the organism were still present on all surfaces.

This study follows research presented earlier in the month at the 2005 American Society for Microbiology (ASM) meeting on the survival of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in the same test environment with similar conclusions.

"The results of both of these studies underscore the continued need for effective hand washing, good hygienic measures, and keeping surfaces clean in hospitals and other settings to keep harmful bacteria under control and maintain healthy lives," stated Sally Swart, vice president of research and development for Healthcare at Ecolab.

With more than 500 people devoted to Research and Development, 12,000 trained sales and service representatives, and a total of 23,000 people worldwide focused on this important issue, Ecolab has an active and aggressive program to seek out and develop effective and easy-to-use cleaning and disinfection solutions for our customers, offering a broad range of effective cleaning and disinfection solutions for hospitals, institutions, restaurants, and food processing settings.

With global sales of $4.2 billion, Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, pest elimination, maintenance and repair products and services for the hospitality, foodservice, institutional and industrial markets.

Ecolab shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange and the Pacific Exchange under the symbol ECL.

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Back to Press Releases