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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Konica Minolta Healthcare Supports the AAPM&R STEP Ultrasound Hands-on Learning Course with the SONIMAGE® HS1

Wayne, NJ, August, 23, 2018 – Continuing its support for musculoskeletal and interventional ultrasound education, Konica Minolta Healthcare Americas, Inc., is providing ultrasound systems for The American Academy for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation’s (AAPM&R) course: *Next Step Interventional Ultrasound: Hands-On PM&R Applications*. The course will be held August 24-25 at the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab in Chicago and includes didactic and hands-on curriculum.

The course is one component of the AAPM&R STEP Ultrasound Certificate Program, which is a multi-tiered training program that teaches and assesses MSK and neurologic ultrasound skills using a progressive, competency-based curriculum. Participants move through a series of 3 STEPs in diagnostic and interventional ultrasound that includes online lectures and tests, hands-on courses, hands-on skills assessment at the Annual Assembly, and more. For most physiatrists, the pathway to the STEP certificate will take approximately one year to complete. The program offers more than 50 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ and meets the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABMPR) Maintenance of Certification requirements.

“Ultrasound training varies considerably, and AAPM&R wanted to provide a centralized, standardized method of training for excellence in ultrasound,” says John C. Cianca, MD, FAAPMR, chair of AAPM&R’s Ultrasound Task Force and Medical Education Committee member. “The program is focused on providing comprehensive competency-based training that will further distinguish our members as leading professionals in interventional and MSK ultrasound. We are grateful for the in-kind support of Konica Minolta Healthcare, providing SONIMAGE® HS1, an advanced ultrasound system that will help attendees of the interventional course quickly and efficiently learn MSK ultrasound.”

The use of diagnostic and interventional ultrasound for musculoskeletal disorders is essential in the field of physiatry. Ultrasound is an important diagnostic tool for soft tissue pathology and there is also growing interest for ultrasound-guided interventions, such as aspiration, infiltrations and injections. Ultrasound enables the real-time imaging of the target and the needle as well as surrounding structures such as vessels and nerves.

“In addition to the recent launch of our UGPro™ Solution initiative that provides complete solutions for ultrasound-guided procedures, Konica Minolta Healthcare is committed to supporting organizations such as the AAPM&R,” says Joan Toth, Sr. Product Marketing Manager. “A key component is hands-on learning and scanning, and we are honored to partner with the AAPM&R by providing the HS1 System for the next STEP course.”

SONIMAGE HS1 delivers superior image quality and needle visualization to support rapid, confident decisions at the point-of-care. A simplified eight button console and intuitive touch screen combine with focused MSK exam presets to minimize the learning curve. Enhanced signal penetration, increased color flow sensitivity and improved resolution deliver detailed tissue differentiation, enabling clinicians to detect structures as small as several hundred microns. In conjunction with beam-steering technology, the HS1 System incorporates an advanced algorithm that utilizes both the in-plane and the out-of-plane methods to improve needle visibility, especially in steep angle approaches. The resulting clarity of the needle enables increased accuracy in needle placement, making the portable system an ideal solution for pain management guided injections.

About Konica Minolta Healthcare Americas, Inc.

Konica Minolta Healthcare is a world-class provider and market leader in medical diagnostic imaging and healthcare information technology. With over 75 years of endless innovation, Konica Minolta is globally recognized as a leader providing cutting-edge technologies and comprehensive support aimed at providing real solutions to meet customer's needs and helping make better decisions sooner. Konica Minolta Healthcare Americas, Inc., headquartered in Wayne, NJ, is a unit of Konica Minolta, Inc. (TSE:4902). For more information on Konica Minolta Healthcare Americas, Inc., please visit www.konicaminolta.com/medicalusa.

About the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

The American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) is the national medical specialty organization representing more than 9,000 physicians who are specialists in physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R). PM&R physicians, also known as physiatrists, treat a wide variety of medical conditions affecting the brain, spinal cord, nerves, bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, and tendons. Physiatrists utilize cutting-edge as well as time-tested treatments to maximize function and quality of life.