REDWOOD CITY, California, and HILDEN, Germany, October 15, 2013 /PRNewswire/ --

- **Empowered Genome Community unites people who have had their genomes sequenced to help make their data scientifically useful through sharing and collaborative interpretation**

- **Effort links citizen scientists with full-time researchers to pool and interpret genomes via QIAGEN's secure online interpretation platform , Ingenuity® Variant Analysis™**

- **Highlighting promise of the approach, QIAGEN releases an open, collaborative analysis of myopia in Harvard Personal Genome Project data**

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and invites citizen scientists to help refine and jointly publish findings

QIAGEN N.V. (NASDAQ: QGEN ; Frankfurt Prime Standard: QIA) today announced the Empowered Genome Community, which is a first-of-its-kind initiative to help people who have had their genomes sequenced share, explore, and interpret their data with researchers and each other. To highlight how the community can spark new biomedical insight, QIAGEN also released an open collaborative analysis of myopia in 111 people whose genomes were sequenced through Harvard's Personal Genome Project (PGP), which is a public repository of well-phenotyped human genomes. Anyone - citizen scientist or full-time researcher alike - can directly review and help refine the analysis via

QIAGEN's Ingenuity ® Variant Analysis™ (https://variants.ingenuity.com/community-myopia) with the goal of jointly publishing robust insights on myopia next year.

"Comparing well-annotated PGP genomes through a collaborative platform such as Variant Analysis to understand important phenotypes like eyesight, helps realize a key piece of the PGP's original vision," said George Church, professor of genetics at Harvard Medical School and founder of the PGP. "Science needs more of us to share our genomic, environmental and trait data, and even our cells; and then to work together to interpret those data, and pioneer new ways to do so."

Ingenuity Variant Analysis is a powerful, HIPAA-compliant cloud-based solution to help researchers compare and functionally interpret human genomes to better understand diseases and other phenotypes. The core of this interpretation resource is the Ingenuity Knowledge Base, the leading expert-curated knowledge resource for next generation biology.

For example, in the preliminary analysis, QIAGEN scientists used Variant Analysis to compare the whole genomes of 111 PGP participants who were surveyed for eye diseases. Initial findings identified 46 genes enriched with rare, potentially functionally relevant variants in people with myopia, but not those without the condition. Further filtering in Variant Analysis using functional insight from the Ingenuity Knowledge Base showed that 17 of these genes are implicated in eye phenotypes in people or mice, or directly interact with such genes. To further refine findings, QIAGEN now invites open collaboration through 31 January 2014, leveraging crowd expertise on myopia physiology, epidemiology, and filtering strategies, with substantive contributions recognized by joint authorship on any resulting publication.

"To make every genome deeply informative in the future, we must first compare *many* of our genomes today to spot patterns that help explain health," said Nathan Pearson , principal genome scientist at QIAGEN. "The Empowered Genome Community adds a key piece to public sequencing efforts like the PGP: a way for citizen-scientists to explore their data, together with full-time researchers, to spark new insights for common good."

QIAGEN invites anyone who has had her or his whole genome sequenced through PGP or other programs such as the Understand Your Genome (UYG) program to join the Empowered

Genome Community (http://www.ingenuity.com/products/variant-analysis/genome-community). Participants will retain full ownership and control of their private data, and can explore their genomes and, as desired, usefully share them with each other and with full-time researchers in their own Variant Analysis accounts. By pooling their data and actively working with interested full-time researchers, members can make their genomes directly useful as controls or cases in future studies of diseases and other phenotypes.

The Empowered Genome Community and the preliminary myopia analysis will be discussed at the American Society of Human Genetics annual meeting in Boston during Session 20 at 9:15 a.m.
on
October 24th
. To join the community with your own genome, or to help refine and publish findings on myopia, please visit:
http://www.ingenuity.com/products/variant-analysis/genome-community
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About QIAGEN Redwood City

QIAGEN Redwood City, formerly Ingenuity Systems, is based in Redwood City, California. As the company's Center of Excellence in Biological Analysis and Interpretation, QIAGEN Redwood City is a leading provider of biomedical information and analysis solutions for the exploration, interpretation and analysis of complex biological systems in life science research and molecular diagnostics. Marketed under the Ingenuity brand, these innovative solutions offered by QIAGEN are used by tens of thousands of researchers and clinicians at hundreds of leading pharmaceutical, biotechnology, academic, diagnostic and clinical institutions worldwide. Further information can be found at
http://www.qiagen.com/ingenuity
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About QIAGEN

QIAGEN N.V., a Netherlands holding company, is the leading global provider of Sample & Assay Technologies that are used to transform biological materials into valuable molecular information. Sample technologies are used to isolate and process DNA, RNA and proteins from biological samples such as blood or tissue. Assay technologies are then used to make these

isolated biomolecules visible and ready for interpretation. QIAGEN markets more than 500 products around the world, selling both consumable kits and automation systems to customers through four customer classes: Molecular Diagnostics (human healthcare), Applied Testing (forensics, veterinary testing and food safety), Pharma (pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies) and Academia (life sciences research). As of June 30, 2013 , QIAGEN employed approximately 4,050 people in over 35 locations worldwide. Further information can be found at http://www.qiagen.com .

Certain of the statements contained in this news release may be considered forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934 , as amended. To the extent that any of the statements contained herein relating to QIAGEN's products , markets , strategy or operating results , including without limitation its expected operating results , are forward-looking , such statements are based on current expectations and assumptions that involve a number of uncertainties and risks. Such uncertainties and risks include , but are not limited to , risks associated with management of growth and international operations (including the effects of currency fluctuations , regulatory processes and dependence on logistics) , variability of operating results and allocations between customer classes , the commercial development of markets for our products in applied testing , personalized healthcare

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clinical research
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proteomics
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women's health/
HPV
testing and
nucleic acid
-based
molecular diagnostics
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suppliers and strategic partners; competition; rapid or unexpected changes in technologies; fluctuations in demand for QIAGEN's products (including fluctuations due to general economic conditions
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the level and timing of customers' funding
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budgets and other factors); our ability to obtain regulatory approval of our products; difficulties in successfully adapting QIAGEN's products to integrated solutions and producing such products; the ability of QIAGEN to identify and develop new products and to differentiate and protect our products from competitors' products; market acceptance of QIAGEN's new products
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the consummation of acquisitions
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and the integration of acquired technologies and businesses. For further information
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