



Contacts: Finn O'Sullivan  
Senior Public Relations Consultant  
Schubert Communications, Inc.  
(610) 269-2100 ext. 232  
[fosullivan@schubert.com](mailto:fosullivan@schubert.com)

Mary Ellen Petti  
Chief Development Officer  
FirstLab  
(215) 540-1651  
[mpetti@firstlab.com](mailto:mpetti@firstlab.com)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NEW TEST IMPROVES ALCOHOL DETECTION FOR TREATMENT & MONITORING PROGRAMS**

---

**NORTH WALES, Pa., February 28, 2005** – FirstLab<sup>®</sup>, the nation's leading expert in testing for employment screening and professional health monitoring, announces the launch of its EtG testing service – the most reliable urine alcohol detection test on the market. Able to uncover the consumption of a single drink for up to 18 hours, and heavier alcohol consumption for up to five days, the test capitalizes on the presence of a distinct bio-marker, Ethyl Glucuronide (EtG) that is only present when alcohol has been consumed. Previously available tests only detected alcohol up to a few hours after drinking.

While these other tests – breath, saliva, and blood – are reliable indicators of alcohol “impairment,” they cannot effectively monitor an individual’s adherence to abstinence agreements. The EtG based test is the first and single-most effective, commercially available test for monitoring recovering alcoholics, DUI offenders, Drug Court participants and others who are subject to zero tolerance restrictions on alcohol consumption.

“EtG is a state-of-the-art method for detecting alcohol,” said Mary Ellen Petti, chief development officer for FirstLab. “It finally moves alcohol detection into the same arena as testing for drug abuse, especially in terms of its use as a deterrent to relapse. EtG testing expands the window of alcohol detection from hours to days by tracking the level of EtG, a unique metabolite of ethanol.”

Considering that alcohol abuse is estimated to affect up to 13 percent of the American working population, and costs the economy up to \$150 billion annually, the wide availability of a reliable test that combines ease of collection with an extended timeframe for detection is of clear importance. “EtG is an invaluable tool for clinicians and monitoring bodies,” continues Petti. “It is minimally invasive, can be conveniently administered, and is a defensible test. It has applications in all recovery programs as an early warning indicator of relapse, and serves as an effective deterrent for future abuse.”

The EtG test has been used effectively in Europe, and is already being used successfully by a wide range of addiction services providers and professional monitoring organizations throughout the United States. Any organization that seeks to monitor an individual's abstinence from alcohol, or needs a reliable way to verify its use, can do so by utilizing this test.

Alcohol abuse is the single most preventable health care problem in the United States; however it often goes undetected until its advanced stages, injuring not only the individual, but the family, the workplace, and the community as well. FirstLab's EtG test provides the technology to achieve more effective early intervention and successful ongoing treatment in the war against this disease.

### **About FirstLab**

As one of the largest providers of employment screening and regulatory support services, FirstLab delivers quality, customized testing program services to a broad client base. FirstLab's service offerings include comprehensive drug and alcohol testing programs, driver qualification file maintenance (DQF) and background investigation services. FirstLab – a subsidiary of FHC Health Systems – is one of the leading third-party administrators (TPAs) of drug testing services to a variety of public and private sector clients working in the manufacturing, transportation, construction, and healthcare industries. Visit [www.firstlab.com](http://www.firstlab.com) for more information.

-###-

### **FirstLab**

1364 Welsh Road, Suite C-2

North Wales, Pa. 19454-1913

800-732-DRUG (3784)

[www.firstlab.com](http://www.firstlab.com)