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After the company was incorporated in 2002, Dr. DiComo first worked closely with architects to design and finalize the blueprints for the company's future space near the Hudson River in Yonkers, New York. The following year, the state-of-the-art research facility was completed in a span of four months. "We plan to continue expanding our space over the next few years to make room for more employees as we further build up our sales, customer service, R&D and pathology fronts," adds

Dr. DiComo, who oversaw the entire construction project.

Immediately after the completion of the company's laboratory space, research scientists worked diligently to develop their products. Meanwhile, the company strategically acquired intellectual property and secured R&D partnerships with Pfizer, AstraZeneca as well as major clinics and educational institutes like Johns Hopkins, Mayo Clinic and Duke University. Aureon specializes in providing personalized prognostic results to patients with its patented technology that analyzes patients' tissue, specifically, a biopsy specimen of a man newly diagnosed with prostate cancer.

How it works

When a urologist who treats prostate cancer patients sends tissue samples to Aureon for analysis, that physician places an order to have his patient's tissue analyzed by sophisticated tissue-based imaging diagnostic tools. After the tissue analysis is complete, the urologist receives a two-page summarized report containing detailed information which is then considered before making a treatment plan. "We take high-resolution digital images of a patient's stained tissue sample, and apply platforms of software packages that can extract

quantifiable data from that patient's tissue architecture," explains Dr. DiComo, clarifying that his company isn't in the business of instructing physicians on how to treat patients, but rather, providing more useful information and instilling a great sense of objectivity into the quantitative process.

'Our technology helps eliminate the subjectivity that happens under the microscope'

Up until this point, each pathologist looking at the tissue's landscape may interpret the landscape—that is, patterns in the specimen—a little bit differently. That's why Aureon invested time and money into its R&D to further develop its technology. As a result, its highly-specialized imaging software packages are changing the art of pathology. The company's goal is to take pathology into the 21st century by computerizing the process to extract quantifiable information that examines the health of the tissue as well as identifies what is in patient tissue. While the diagnostic capability is there, Dr. DiComo confirms that Aureon operates in the prognostic end of the market. "We come in right after the patient has been diagnosed, nobody else can fit this niche," he clarifies.

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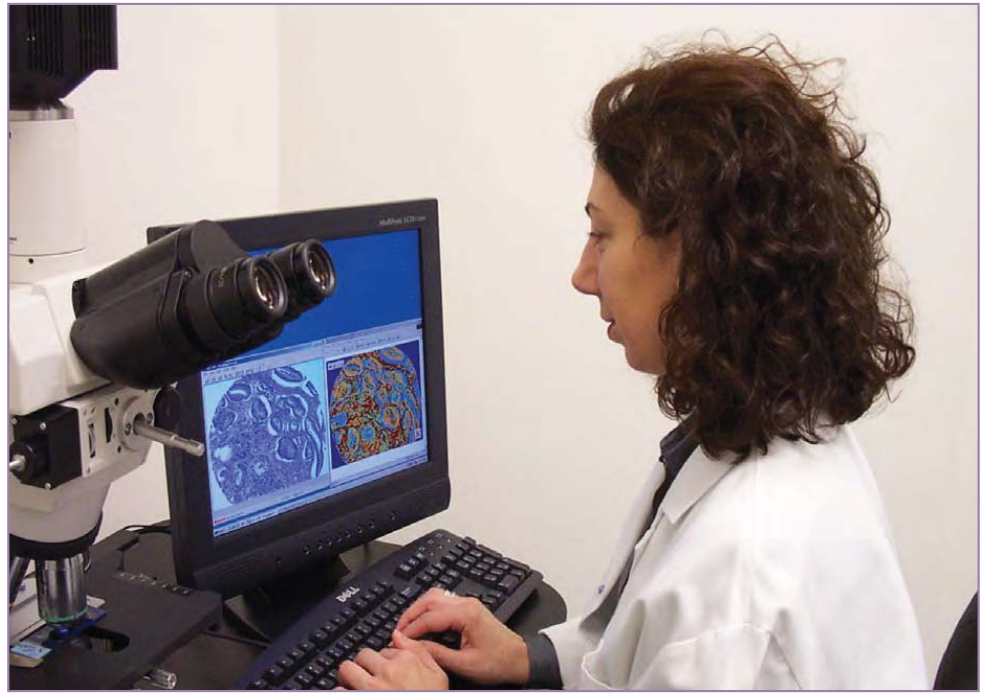


Years of R&D leads to innovation

Before Aureon launched Prostate Px®, its prostatectomy test in March 2006, the research team spent many years in the R&D phase to develop a cutting-edge computing platform. This Systems Pathology approach allows scientists to extract molecular information from patient tissue and then compile a report for the ordering physician that is easily interpreted and assists them with making more informed treatment decisions. “We take in the tissue specimen and examine its ‘health’; we apply our testing and then provide a predictive, personalized result to add to that doctor’s treatment plan,” he explains.

Future plans

Since then, the innovative research company has had plenty of experience in applying its patented systems pathology technology to a number of other indications. Now, Aureon is conducting a market analysis by polling various medical groups to determine which cancers the company shall focus on next. “We are by no means just a prostate cancer testing company. I think we’re capable of applying our technology in the future to almost any part of the body, as there is a medical need,” says Dr. DiComo, adding that at the time of diagnosis, it is not always clear if a patient is low- or high-risk. “It is important to identify which of



those patients is high-risk so you can provide a proactive treatment regimen, not a reactive one,” he explains. Further studies in prostate research with leading institutions including Johns Hopkins are also currently underway. “Our technology is currently based on retrospective clinical trials but we’re now getting ready to do new prospective clinic trials with leading institutions,” he adds.

also in discussions with leading clinicians and researchers at Columbia University to develop future partnerships. “There is a lot of R&D going on, as well as the day-to-day commercialization of the business to get the word out across the country. We are also looking for opportunities outside the U.S., to increase our international presence in this space.” **ABI**

Technology without borders

These days, Aureon is collaborating with several international research institutions namely, Cancer Research U.K., a leading cancer charity in the United Kingdom. Dr. DiComo and his team are