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January 26, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CAMPUS LECTURE TO DISCUSS IMAGING MEDICAL SPECIMENS

CHARLESTON -- How technology is changing the way tissue samples are analyzed will be the focus of an Eastern Illinois University-sponsored presentation that may be of particular interest to local health professionals.

Eastern's Lumpkin Executive-in-Residence, Tom Anderson of NeoPath, Inc., will talk about "Medical Specimen Imaging and Image Processing" at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, in Room 215 of Eastern's Physical Science Building.

Anderson, director of strategic business planning at NeoPath, said the new technology will revolutionize the use of pap smear screening in the field of medicine.

"We have developed a machine with eyes and a brain, Anderson said. "People usually will only work eight hours, but this machine will work 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Anderson said the science of image processing, which began in the early 1990s, allows for a greater degree of accuracy in testing, giving the system a better chance in the commercial market.

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Revolutionizing pap smears, however, is not the only predicted use of this new technology. Anderson said he believes the system's applications will be used in magnetic resonance imaging, x-rays and mamograms.

"It may someday even result in computer-aided surgery," he added.

Perhaps the system's greatest asset will be its cost benefit to hospital patients. Anderson predicts the system will create greater quality health care, resulting in lower prices.

In addition to his work at NeoPath, Inc., Anderson is currently the Executive-in-Residence for Eastern's Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences.

"I can bring my expertise into the classroom," said Anderson, who is scheduled to teach four classes Monday and three on Tuesday. "It is different than what students see in their books. It allows them to see and learn from what they otherwise might not see."

In addition to this presentation, Anderson will be speaking to the Rotary Club Jan. 30 and will give a formal presentation to the university Jan. 31.