

For Immediate Release

>>**Microdeletion syndrome discovered by Signature profiled in *New York Times***  
Spokane, Wash., 10 January 2008 -- Two children with a genomic disorder first reported by researchers at Signature Genomic Laboratories, LLC were recently profiled by the [New York Times](#).

The two children were among four individuals referred to Signature for genetic testing who were diagnosed using the SignatureChip targeted microarray with a submicroscopic deletion on the short arm of chromosome 16. The syndrome, the clinical features of which include mental retardation, distinct facial features, short stature, heart defects and feeding difficulties, was first described in the scientific journal *Nature Genetics* in an article titled "[Discovery of a previously unrecognized microdeletion syndrome of 16p11.2-p12.2](#)." The *Times* story describes how the girls' families, both of which reside in Kentucky, met following publication of the research paper; for both families, it was the first time they had met another individual with this rare chromosome abnormality.

"I think this is the kind of story we will hear about more often as microarray technology becomes more widely used," said Dr. Lisa G. Shaffer, PhD, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Signature Genomic Laboratories. "Some of these families have been searching for years for what is causing their children's health problems, and microarrays are finally able to give them answers."

**About Signature Genomic Laboratories, LLC**

Signature Genomic Laboratories, founded in 2003, is a private company owned by Sacred Heart Medical Center, Pathology Associates Medical Laboratories, and its founders, Lisa G. Shaffer, PhD and Bassem A. Bejjani, MD. Located in Spokane, Washington, Signature operates a state-of-the-art molecular cytogenetic diagnostic service. It was the first laboratory to provide microarray-based cytogenetic diagnostics with its proprietary SignatureChip<sup>®</sup> and continues to be the leader in providing microarray-based chromosome analysis. Signature's worldwide client base includes clinical geneticists, neurologists, pediatricians, neonatologists, obstetricians, and the research community. Signature is CAP accredited, CLIA certified, and licensed in the state of Washington. Additional information about Signature is available at [www.signaturegenomics.com](http://www.signaturegenomics.com).