

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Ilene Semiatin, Edge Communications 914/684-0959; ilene@edge-comm.net

OLYMPUS BIOSCAPES™ DIGITAL IMAGING COMPETITION DEBUTS; DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS SEPTEMBER 7, 2004

MELVILLE, NY, June 18, 2004 – Olympus America Inc. has announced an exciting new photo competition that will honor extraordinary microscope images of life science subjects. Entry deadline for the **Olympus BioScapesTM Digital Imaging Competition** is September 7, 2004, and first prize will be Olympus microscope or camera equipment valued at \$5,000. Nine additional winners will also receive valuable prizes from Olympus.

"We have created this competition because there is so much dynamic work now being done in research laboratories all over the world," said George Steares, Group Vice President for Scientific Equipment at Olympus. "These fascinating shots will tell important stories that shed light on the living universe around us. We want to know these stories and see these images. The BioScapes photo competition will focus exclusively on digital microscopic images in the life sciences and will allow entries in many formats: images, image series, and movies."

The Olympus BioScapes Digital Imaging Competition will recognize the finest images of life science specimens captured through light microscopes, using any magnification and any brand of equipment. Each person entering can submit up to five movies, images, or image sequences. Entries will include information on the importance or "story" behind the images. Winners will be notified in late September, and publicly announced at an event in October.

Uploading images to enter the competition is easy. For more information or to enter the competition, visit www.olympusamerica.com, the company's well known educational website www.olympusmicro.com, and also www.molecularexpressions.com.

Olympus is a precision technology leader, designing and delivering innovative solutions in healthcare and consumer electronics worldwide. Its Scientific Equipment Group provides innovative microscope imaging solutions for researchers, doctors, clinicians and educators.