



## **AMPERSAND ANNOUNCES SUCCESSFUL RECAPITALIZATION OF BAKO**

**Wellesley, MA – January 8, 2016** - Ampersand Capital Partners announced that the firm has sold a majority of its interest in Bako Integrated Physician Solutions (“Bako”) in a sponsor-backed recapitalization. Bako is a premier national provider of specialty laboratory testing services with a comprehensive suite of anatomic pathology, proprietary molecular biology, and neurology tests. Based in Alpharetta, GA, Bako has established a clear market leading position in the growing and underserved podiatry market with a unique service offering tailored to meet the needs of podiatrists.

In 2011, Ampersand partnered with Bako founder and CEO, Brad Bakotic, D.P.M., D.O., as the first institutional investor in Bako. Over the last four years, Ampersand has worked closely with Dr. Bakotic and Bako’s management team, during which time the Company has delivered industry-leading growth and profitability. Ampersand sold a majority of its ownership position in this transaction, but also maintains a meaningful equity position going forward.

Bako founder and CEO, Brad Bakotic, DPM, DO, commented “Bako has benefited tremendously from Ampersand’s industry expertise, helping us build the infrastructure needed to maintain the highest quality services possible for our physician clients and their patients. We are exceedingly pleased that the Ampersand partnership will continue during our next phase of growth.”

Ampersand Managing Partner, and Bako Board member, Herb Hooper, PhD, added: “It has been extremely rewarding to partner with the Bako team over the last four years. Brad and his team have built a clear market leader with a strong reputation for quality and service, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with the Company going forward.”

### ***About Ampersand Capital Partners***

Ampersand is a middle market private equity firm with a focus on growth equity investments in the healthcare sector. Over the past two decades, Ampersand has managed over \$1 billion in private equity partnerships. Ampersand leverages its unique blend of private equity and operating experience to build value and drive superior long-term performance alongside its portfolio company management teams. Additional information about Ampersand is available at [www.ampersandcapital.com](http://www.ampersandcapital.com).

### ***About Bako Integrated Physician Solutions***

Bako Integrated Physician Solutions (“Bako”), is a premier national provider of specialty laboratory testing services which offers a comprehensive testing menu, including complete anatomic pathology services, proprietary molecular genetic testing, and peripheral neuropathy immuno-histochemical testing. Located in Alpharetta, GA, Bako is primarily focused on serving the nation’s 18,000 podiatric physicians, providing them with unmatched sector-specific expertise and physician support services. In addition, the Company offers an integrated portfolio of office-dispensed therapeutics. Bako is CLIA certified, CAP accredited, and licensed by the Georgia Department of Public Health. For more information, visit <http://bakocots.com/>.