The Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation commissioned the Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) Patient Diagnostic Journey (INTENSITY) survey with support from molecular diagnostics company Veracyte, Inc. to better understand the steps required for people with these potentially-fatal lung diseases to receive a diagnosis, the “roadblocks” that delay diagnosis, and the impact of these diagnostic journeys on patients, their doctors and the healthcare system.

Each year, an estimated 175,000 to 200,000 patients in the United States and major European countries present with suspected ILDs. Among the known forms of ILD, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is among the most common and the most deadly. Patients have a median survival time of just 3.8 years - worse than most forms of cancer.

Correct Diagnosis Requires Time and Many Healthcare Resources

- Survey participants saw an average of three physicians before receiving a diagnosis; more than one-quarter (26%) saw five or more doctors.
- On average, respondents endured six pulmonary lung function tests, five chest X-rays, two bronchoscopies, and two to three CT scans before receiving a diagnosis.
- Nearly half of survey participants (45%) underwent surgical lung biopsy—an invasive, expensive and painful procedure—as part of their diagnosis.

For more information about the INTENSITY survey, interstitial lung diseases (ILDs) or idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), contact the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation at www.pulmonaryfibrosis.org or 1-844-TalkPFF.

* Independent healthcare-research organization Outcomes Insights conducted the 600-person INTENSITY survey (300 women/300 men) online from August 14 to 26, 2015. The survey was sponsored by molecular diagnostics company Veracyte, Inc.