

3F Therapeutics, Inc. Announces The First Clinical Implantation Of The 3F Enable Aortic Heart Valve, A Patented, Sutureless Implantation, Replacement Heart Valve Intended To Save Valuable Surgery Time

KRAKOW, Poland, Jan. 18 /PRNewswire/ -- Department of Cardiovascular Surgery and Transplantology at the Jagiellonian University -- Today, a 76-year old patient underwent successful aortic heart valve replacement surgery, becoming the first person in the world to receive the 3F Enable Aortic Heart Valve(TM), intended to eliminate the need for the cardiac surgeon to suture the device into the aortic annulus of the patient in the usual manner, saving an average of 30 minutes or more of cardiopulmonary bypass time.

Using no stitches in this first ever procedure, the surgical team at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow successfully replaced the failing aortic heart valve of the 76-year old male patient. "The patient is recovering nicely," said Professor Dr. Jerzy Sadowski, M.D., Ph.D., Chief of the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery and Transplantology of the Jagiellonian University. "Limiting cardiopulmonary bypass time is an objective of all cardiac surgeons performing open heart valve replacement surgery, as complications to the patient associated with extended bypass time can be severe," he continued.

Based on the success of the first implant, Professor Sadowski implanted two additional 3F Enable Aortic Heart Valves(TM) in patients meeting the selection criteria. All valves required under one minute of implantation positioning time with drastic reduction of aortic cross clamp time and cardiopulmonary bypass time. All valves were fully competent.

"I believe that the 3F Therapeutics product development team in California has achieved a potential breakthrough with the design of the 3F Enable Aortic Heart Valve(TM) based on what we have experienced today. In major surgical centers like ours across the world, most of these valve replacement patients also have Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) surgery at the same time their heart valves are replaced. Single or multiple vessel grafting is also time consuming, and the combination of these operations into a single case is the larger target of this research endeavor. A standard mechanical or tissue heart valve takes me about 30 minutes to suture in place. This new 3F product allowed me to achieve the same result in less than 50 seconds," Professor Dr. Sadowski concluded.

"We at 3F Therapeutics, Inc., are extremely pleased with the results of this first case performed by Professor Dr. Sadowski and his surgical team in Krakow," said Walter A. Cuevas, President and CEO of 3F Therapeutics, Inc. "Our successful association with this excellent investigational center in Krakow started with the international multicenter clinical trial of our standard surgical product, the 3F Aortic Bioprosthesis(TM), that led to our CE Mark of Conformity to the M.D.D. of the European Union and the commercial launch of this device in Europe in October 2004. Fifty two (52) patients were enrolled by the team at Jagiellonian University Hospital for the 3F Aortic Bioprosthesis(TM). This experienced based association is doubly important, as the 3F Aortic Bioprosthesis(TM) is a critical component of the 3F Enable Aortic Heart Valve(TM). The track record of our first commercial device (the 3F Aortic Bioprosthesis(TM)) supports the expectation that this second generation product from 3F (the 3F Enable Aortic Heart Valve(TM)) will perform to the rigorous standards expected by surgeons, their patients and regulators around the world. In this way we advance both the benefit to patients and the value of our company," concluded Mr. Cuevas.

About 3F Therapeutics, Inc.

3F Therapeutics, Inc., (3F) located in Lake Forest, CA (USA) is a privately held company formed to develop, manufacture and market innovative devices for the cardiac surgeon. 3F Therapeutics' patented technologies, based on a tubular valve concept, lend themselves to minimally invasive surgery (MIS) and will be applicable to both aortic and mitral valve replacement. 3F's focus on the cardiac surgeon is based on the belief that the vast majority of heart valve replacement procedures will continue to be performed by the cardiac surgeon in the operating room. For more information on 3F Therapeutics, Inc., visit our web site at <http://www.3ftherapeutics.com/>.

Company Contact Walter A. Cuevas 3F Therapeutics, Inc. President and CEO 20412 James Bay Circle Lake Forest, California 92630 USA Phone 949-380-9333 Fax 949-380-9399 <http://www.3ftherapeutics.com/>

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CONTACT: Walter A. Cuevas, President and CEO of 3F Therapeutics, Inc., +1-949-380-9333, fax, +1-949-380-9399

Web site: <http://www.3ftherapeutics.com/>