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TRANSITIONS IN MEDICAL DEVICES FOR HEART FAILURE PATIENTS

Discussing Data from INTERMACS and Clinical Trials to Address Transition from Pulsatile to Nonpulsatile Heart Flow Pumps

SAN DIEGO (Sept. 14, 2010) – The 14th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA) will feature a discussion titled “Pulsatile vs. Nonpulsatile Flow Devices: Lessons Learned From INTERMACS and Clinical Trials” presented by Dr. Joseph G. Rogers, Associate Professor of Medicine, and Medical Director of the Cardiac Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support Program at Duke University. Dr. Rogers’ discussion will concentrate on various outcomes found in advanced heart failure patients using pulsatile or nonpulsatile flow devices.

Dr. Rogers will compare the different pulsatile and non-pulsatile left ventricular assist devices (LVADs) that are commercially available and in development. He will also discuss the impact of the various devices on several patient-focused outcomes including survival, quality of life, functional capacity, and adverse events, as well as the frequency of mechanical failure of the devices. The data to be presented will be drawn from several pivotal clinical trials as well as the Interagency Registry for Mechanically Assisted Circulatory Support database (INTERMACS), a large US registry that captures details of all commercially implanted LVADs.

“The purpose of an LVAD is to restore normal blood flow and reduce the excessive blood pressures in the heart and lungs in Stage D patients, who are not responding to good medical therapy” said Dr. Rogers. “We have found that there is a 1-year survival rate approaching 85 percent in nonpulsatile flow device patients compared to approximately 55 percent in patients who received a pulsatile device.”

Nonpulsatile flow devices consist of an impeller that spins blood at a constant speed, removing blood from the failing heart back to a patient’s blood vessels. The technological advances of the continuous flow pumps have resulted in more durable devices that seldom require replacement.

Dr. Rogers is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Duke University. Rogers is a graduate of University of Nebraska Medical School in 1988 and also served his residency in Internal Medicine in 1991. He trained in cardiology at Washington University in St. Louis. His clinical and research interests include acute and chronic heart failure, cardiac transplantation and mechanical circulatory support.

For a complete list of annual meeting sessions or for details on attending the conference, call (617) 226-7183 or visit www.hfsa.org and click on Annual Scientific Meeting. There is no registration fee for accredited journalists. Interview areas will be available on-site in addition to a fully-staffed press room with phone and internet accessibility. You may follow news from the meeting on Twitter #HFSA

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About Heart Failure

Heart failure is a progressive condition in which the heart muscle becomes weakened after it is injured, most commonly from heart attack or high blood pressure, and gradually loses its ability to pump enough blood to supply the body's needs. Many people are not aware they have heart failure because the symptoms are often mistaken for signs of getting older. Heart failure affects from 4.6 to 4.8 million individuals in the United States. Demographic and clinical evidence strongly suggests that the prevalence of heart failure will increase throughout the next decade. Ten to 15 years ago heart failure was considered a "death sentence;" however, recent advances in treatment have shown that early diagnosis and proper care in early stages of the condition are key to slowing, stopping or in some cases reversing progression, improving quality of life, and extending life expectancy. For more information on heart failure, please visit www.abouthf.org.

About the Heart Failure Society of America

The Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA) is a nonprofit educational organization, founded in 1994 as the first organized association of heart failure experts. The HFSA provides a forum for all those interested in heart function, heart failure research and patient care. The Society also serves as a resource for governmental agencies (FDA, NIH, NHLBI, CMS). The HFSA Annual Scientific Meeting is designed to highlight recent advances in the development of strategies to address the complex epidemiological, clinical and therapeutic issues of heart failure. Additional information on HFSA can be found at www.hfsa.org.