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# **New Anti-Bacterial Device Helps Reduce Infections Associated with Pacemaker and Defibrillator Implantation\***

**Monmouth Junction, NJ, (April 00, 2010)** -- TYRX, Inc. announced today the commercial release of the AIGIS<sub>Rx</sub><sup>TM</sup> Flat, an antibacterial product that helps provide protection against infections associated with implanted pacemakers and defibrillators.

Like the original AIGIS<sub>Rx</sub><sup>TM</sup> Envelope, AIGIS<sub>Rx</sub> Flat<sup>†</sup> delivers the anti-microbial agents, rifampin and minocycline which have been shown to reduce infection by organisms representing a majority of the infections reported in cardiac rhythm management device (CRMD)-related endocarditis, including “superbugs” or MRSA. AIGIS<sub>Rx</sub> Flat also offers the implanting physician additional flexibility in the application of these lifesaving devices.

"The current AIGIS<sub>Rx</sub> envelope provides potent antimicrobial protection and also anchors the device to prevent device migration. However, in patients who are undergoing battery change-outs, using the AIGIS<sub>Rx</sub> Flat option helps minimize dissection of the pre-existing pocket," notes Heather Bloom, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine, Director, Cardiac Electrophysiology Services, Atlanta VA Medical Center. "Since the risk of infection is much higher in change-outs, partially due to the avascular pocket preventing tissue penetration by oral antibiotics, having a drug-eluting device on the site is of critical importance."

Hospitalization for CRMD infection increased faster than rates of CRMD implants from 1996 through 2006, according to the National Hospital Discharge Survey, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The disproportionate rise in CRMD-related infections carries significant public health consequences. This was further reinforced in the January 2010 guideline issued by the American Heart Association and

Heart Rhythm Society which explicitly states there is a significant unmet clinical need in CRMD related infection.

Over 5 million people worldwide currently have a pacemaker or defibrillator with 500,000 people receiving a pacemaker or defibrillator each year in the United States.

Following commercial release in 2008, AIGIS<sub>Rx</sub> has been implanted in over 8,500 patients nationwide. The company estimates that approximately 1% of all U.S. CRMD patients in 2010 will receive an AIGIS<sub>Rx</sub> envelope during their procedure.

“We anticipate the AIGIS<sub>Rx</sub> products will be adopted as the standard during CRMD implants procedures,” remarked Robert White, TYRX CEO. “One of the great strengths of TYRX is the ability to leverage our current anti-bacterial technology into a wide variety of clinical applications. We are eager to help physicians and hospitals continue to address the significant unmet needs in infection control.”

\*Based upon preclinical *in vitro* and *in vivo* data. (Data on file at TYRX and published in PACE 2009; 32(7)898-907.

† Previously referred to as AIGIS<sub>Rx</sub> Custom in marketing documents and website.

### **About TYRX, Inc.**

TYRX, Inc., an ISO 9001:2000 and ISO 13485:2003 certified medical device manufacturer, commercializes implantable combination drug/device products focused on infection control. TYRX is deploying its capabilities across a broad range of implantable medical devices and is positioned to be the innovative leader in this area. In 2008 TYRX raised \$25 million in a venture capital financing led by Clarus Ventures and co-led by Pappas Ventures.

For more information, please visit [www.TYRX.com](http://www.TYRX.com).

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