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TranS1 Announces Commercial Launch Of AxiaLIF Spine Surgery System
Thursday January 27, 9:00 am ET

AxiaLIF(TM) is the Least Invasive Approach to Lumbar Fusion

WILMINGTON, N.C.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jan. 27, 2005-- TranS1, Inc., a medical device firm focused on developing minimally invasive product solutions for the treatment of lower back pain, today announced the U.S. market release of its Axial Lumbar Interbody Fusion (AxiaLIF(TM)) System. The AxiaLIF System is the least invasive approach to lumbar fusion and, according to a recent clinical study, dramatically reduces patient recovery time in comparison to traditional lumbar fusion procedures.

"The market release of AxiaLIF is the culmination of almost five years of product and clinical development and testing," stated Rick Randall, President and CEO of TranS1 Inc. "We are very pleased to offer surgeons and their patients a 'two-stitch' lumbar fusion alternative to the more invasive fusion and disc replacement therapies currently employed. With this minimally invasive alternative, we believe more patients will accept a definitive surgical solution for their chronic back pain."

In a recent clinical study, AxiaLIF patients were able to walk the same day of the surgery, most were released from the hospital within 24 hours and, on average, returned to work within 15 days. In comparison, conventional lumbar fusion patients are typically discharged three to five days after surgery and do not return to work for one to two months.

"The para coccygeal axial approach to the spine as developed by TranS1 allows for what is unquestionably the least invasive access to the L5S1 level of the spine," stated Isador Lieberman, M.D, Orthopedic and Spinal Surgeon and Director of the Minimally Invasive Surgery Center at The Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Cleveland Clinic Spine Institute. "I expect that this approach will foster multiple therapeutic modalities including fusion, disc replacement and biologic reconstitution of the degenerate spine."

Forty to 60 percent of adults suffer from chronic back pain in the U.S. every year, and more than one million spine surgery procedures are performed annually in this country. Medical costs to treat back pain approach \$24 billion per year. The lumbar fusion segment of the spine surgery market is well over \$1 billion in annual revenue in the U.S.

AxiaLIF(TM)

The AxiaLIF system employs a novel approach to accessing the lowest portion of the lumbar spine through a percutaneous opening via the sacral bone. This minimally invasive access enables surgeons to perform lumbar fusion without the major dissections of the surrounding spinal soft tissue structures associated with conventional fusion surgery. This approach reduces recovery time and discomfort for chronic back pain patients.

TranS1 plans to initially introduce the AxiaLIF system to a select group of spine surgeons geographically dispersed in the United States. Each surgeon must complete a comprehensive pre-clinical and clinical training as part of a certification program.

TranS1

TranS1 Inc. is a privately held medical device firm focused on developing minimally invasive product solutions for the treatment of lower back pain. Based in Wilmington, N.C., TranS1 is also developing a percutaneous disc replacement system scheduled for initial clinical testing in 2005. Disc replacement offers patients the potential for relief of back pain with the preservation of full range of motion within the treated spinal disc. For more information on TranS1, please visit www.trans1inc.com.

TranS1 will be presenting more information on the company and AxiaLIF today at the Piper Jaffray Health Care Conference in New York City.

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