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Access Scientific Adds Jim Sweeney to Board

SAN DIEGO – Access Scientific, Inc., maker of The WAND® Safety Introducer for the Accelerated Seldinger Technique, today announced the appointment of noted healthcare entrepreneur Jim Sweeney to its Board of Directors.

Sweeney is Chairman and CEO of San Diego-based PatientSafe Solutions, Inc., a leading provider of wireless handheld point-of-care to hospitals. He has started eight healthcare product and service companies, successfully taken three companies public, and led an LBO resulting in a 650% return to investors in less than four years. His first company, Caremark, founded the multi-billion dollar home infusion therapy industry.

“Jim’s experience, contacts and wisdom make him an invaluable asset to our enterprise. ASI is truly honored and grateful to have Jim Sweeney on our Board of Directors,” said Steve Bierman, M.D., CEO of Access Scientific. “I have no doubt his numerous past successes will contribute to The WAND’s success in the marketplace and ASI’s success overall.”

Sweeney has raised more than \$2 billion in financing for his various companies including \$500 million in venture capital, \$700 million in debt financing, and \$400 million in three IPO’s. In addition, he has sold two companies for more than \$1 billion. His eighth startup, CardioNet, was the world’s first commercially successful wireless medicine company. His leadership in healthcare-related business was the subject of a laudatory front-page story in the *Wall Street Journal*.

“The WAND looks to be a game-changing technology that truly advances patient and healthcare worker safety” Sweeney said. “I am pleased to be a part of this enterprise and look forward to working with Dr. Bierman and his team to once again create a new standard of care in vascular access.”

The first version of The WAND to receive FDA clearance is the MicroAccess WAND. It combines all components of the older, Modified Seldinger Technique into a unitary device that provides faster, safer, simpler over-wire vascular access. The MicroAccess WAND is designed for insertion of central venous catheters, where it reduces the risk of air embolism by 50%.

Subsequent iterations will include The PICC WAND™ and Power WAND™. Now in development, these devices are designed to be used primarily by vascular nurse specialists for insertion of PICC and extended-dwell peripheral IVs.

The original Seldinger technique was developed in 1953 to reduce complications associated with the introduction of catheters and other medical devices into blood vessels and hollow organs. Because there have been few significant improvements to the technique since it was invented, what is now known as the Modified Seldinger Technique still carries serious risks for patients and clinicians.

The WAND is designed to reduce these risks, which include accidental needlesticks, bleeding, contamination, embolism, and loss of cannulation. Future product iterations are expected to provide additional safety benefits.

Access Scientific's management team, including Dr. Bierman, previously served as the core management team of Venetec International. Venetec, which was subsequently acquired by C. R. Bard, created and marketed the industry-leading StatLock® line of catheter stabilization devices.

“Jim Sweeney was an informal but highly valued advisor to us as we built Venetec International and made StatLock the global standard of care,” Dr. Bierman said. “He will be an instrumental part of our efforts as we maximize the potential of The WAND's innovative approach to vascular access and the Accelerated Seldinger Technique.”

The PICC WAND™ is pending 510(k) clearance by the FDA. The Power WAND™ is currently in development. No claims to efficacy or product superiority are hereby made. Rather, the language being presented is simply suggestive of possible future features and benefits.

About Access Scientific

Access Scientific, a privately held medical device company, is dedicated to providing a safer standard of over-wire vascular access through its proprietary WAND technology. Designed to provide the fastest, safest, simplest over-wire catheter insertion, The WAND enables clinicians to perform the Accelerated Seldinger Technique. The total market opportunity for the company's products is estimated to be more than \$2.5 billion annually.

For further information on the company, go to www.The-Wand.com, email Access Scientific at info@the-wand.com, or call 858-259-8333.

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