



Contact:

Janet Bosserman

R/P Marketing Public Relations

(419) 241-2221

jbosserman@r-p.com

Animal Care Facility Receives Highest Accreditation

*Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International
Recognizes Spring Point Project's Diabetes Research and Wellness Islet Resource Facility*

July 15, 2010 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. – After its first, thorough peer reviewed assessment of the Diabetes Research and Wellness Islet Resource Facility in Western Wis., the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) International has awarded full, international accreditation for the animal care and use program of Spring Point Project. The facility produces high-health, “medical-grade” source pigs capable of donating islet cells suitable for transplantation in diabetes patients. AAALAC assesses the quality of all aspects of the animal care and use program, veterinary care, institutional policies and facilities to ensure humane treatment of animals in science.

“The management and staff are commended for providing quality facilities and programs for the care and use of laboratory animals,” said Dorcas P. O’Rourke, D.V.M., M.S. President Pro Tem, Council on Accreditation, AAALAC. “Especially noteworthy were the strong administrative support for the program; the dedicated and knowledgeable staff at all levels of the organization; the detailed documentation of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), husbandry program, medical records, and standard operating procedures (SOPs); the exceptional care provided to the animals; and the high level of sanitation throughout the facility.”

Spring Point Project joins more than 800 animal care and use programs in 32 countries which have earned AAALAC International accreditation. AAALAC International is the only international accrediting organization for animal research that is awarding accreditation based on a global standard.

-more-

Animal Care Facility-Page 2

“It is particularly noteworthy that our animal care program received the highest level of accreditation as a first time applicant,” proclaimed Tom Spizzo, Director of Operations for Spring Point Project. “It is gratifying to all who have worked to make the facility and program a reality and to our highly skilled team who actively cares for the pigs and ensures excellent, quality performance standards. The accreditation is evidence of our commitment to animal welfare in science.”

Spring Point Project was founded as a non-profit, grassroots effort in 2004 to help make islet cell transplantation a viable solution for the cure of type 1 diabetes. The Diabetes Research and Wellness Islet Resource Facility began operations in 2007 in a 21,000 square-foot facility constructed by the Ryan Companies. A \$6.2 million grant by the Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation (DRWF), along with millions of dollars of private funding, has allowed Spring Point Project to produce several generations of pigs.

The Diabetes Research and Wellness Islet Resource Facility’s team created and maintains a highly sophisticated program for animal production that emphasizes animal welfare as well as effective and safe islet production.

About Spring Point Project

Spring Point Project, headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn., is working to provide an unlimited source of pig islet cells to accelerate the availability and affordability of islet transplantation to cure diabetes. Spring Point Project and the Schulze Diabetes Institute of the University of Minnesota work in partnership to provide the source and science needed to move toward a cure for diabetes.

www.SpringPointProject.org

###