



Contact:

Janet Bosserman

R/P Marketing Public Relations

(419)241-2221

jbosserman@r-p.com

Spring Point Project Announces Departure of CEO Henk Schuurman

May 2010 – MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. – Tom Cartier, Chairman of the Board of Spring Point Project has announced the departure of CEO Henk-Jan Schuurman, PhD effective May 1, 2010. “We thank Henk for his many years of service to Spring Point. His knowledge of xenotransplantation along with his passion for finding a cure for type 1 diabetes and operating a first class biosecure facility has made it possible for Spring Point Project to develop medical grade pigs capable of providing islet cells for xenotransplantation.”

Henk-Jan Schuurman continues his professorship in the Schulze Diabetes Institute at the University of Minnesota supporting the research in islet cell transplantation. Previously he was Director BioMedical Research at Royal Numico, a Netherlands-based nutrition company specializing in baby food and clinical nutrition. Between 2001 and 2004 he served as Vice President Research at Immerge BioTherapeutics, a joint venture of Novartis Pharma AG and BioTransplant Inc focused on the development of pig xenotransplantation into clinical practice. During these years he guided a successful collaboration with the Diabetes Institute for Transplantation and Immunology at the University of Minnesota. The unprecedented achievements on functional survival of porcine islets in diabetic monkeys formed the basis of establishing Spring Point Project as a nonprofit organization with the mission “to provide an unlimited source of pig islet cells to accelerate the availability and affordability of islet transplantation to cure diabetes.”

Before moving to the US, Dr Schuurman worked as Unit Head and Head of Primate Transplantation Programs in Novartis Pharma AG, either allotransplantation (Switzerland) or xenotransplantation (UK). He holds a PhD in Analytical Immunochemistry from the University of Utrecht, NL, and before joining Novartis/Sandoz worked in clinical and experimental immunopathology in the University Hospital and Faculty of Medicine, University of Utrecht, NL. He has widely published in the field of (medical) immunology, including transplantation biology, immunodeficiency, immunopathology and immunotoxicology, in all these areas with respect to clinical-pathologic studies and experimental animal modeling.

Under Dr. Schuurman’s leadership Spring Point Project successfully built and populated a state-of-the-art facility and assembled a highly skilled team at the Diabetes Research and Wellness Islet Resource Facility to care for the pigs that are then provided to the Schultz Diabetes Institute.

-more-

Spring Point Project Announces Departure of CEO, Page 2

“Our goal is to cure diabetes for our children and Henk has been instrumental in helping us get through these initial research and planning stages. We applaud his efforts and thank him for his contributions,” Cartier said.

Spring Point collaborates with the University of Minnesota’s Dr. Bernhard Hering and his team of researchers at the Schulze Diabetes Institute as they continue their efforts to find a cure for diabetes.

About Spring Point Project—Headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn., Spring Point 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 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.

Schulze Diabetes Institute—Headquartered at the University of Minnesota, began in 1994. The University of Minnesota Medical School capitalized upon its historic strengths in pancreas transplantation by establishing the Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation (DIIT) to pursue a cure for diabetes. The DIIT was renamed the Schulze Diabetes Institute in 2008.

To contact Spring Point Project, visit www.SpringPointProject.org. To contact the Schulze Diabetes Institute, visit www.diabetesinstitute.org.

###