CENTER FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY
A New York State Center For Advanced Technology
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Stony Brook University & Avery Biomedical To Develop Artificial Vision Technology Donated by Wm. Dobelle Estate

Stony Brook, NY, May 1, 2006: The NYSTAR-designated Center for Biotechnology at Stony Brook University announced today that it will enter into a collaborative agreement with Avery Biomedical Devices, Inc. (ABD) of Commack, NY, to further develop a portable artificial vision system invented by Dr. William H. Dobelle, spouse of ABD's founder, Claire Atkinson Dobelle. Title to Dr. Dobelle's patent for the artificial vision system has already been transferred by his Estate to the Research Foundation of SUNY to facilitate further development of the technology.

Phase I of the co-development plan at Stony Brook University will be supported by the Center for Biotechnology and ABD, and will focus on providing significant enhancements to the existing system, incorporating new safety features, and making it more portable and practical to use. "This is a true partnership between the State of New York, Stony Brook University, and private industry. The Dobelle family had a promising technology, but lacked the breadth of resources necessary to develop it further. Using the technology development capabilities and resources of our Center, the engineering expertise of ABD, and the clinical and research infrastructure of Stony Brook University, we will be able to add significant value to the device" said Diane Fabel, Director of Operations for the Center for Biotechnology.

The artificial vision system uses surface electrode arrays to stimulate the visual cortex of the brain. The device, which reflects more than thirty years of development work, includes a miniature television camera mounted on the lens of the patient's sunglasses, which sends images to a microcomputer worn on a belt around the waist. The microcomputer processes the data and sends signals to a stimulator and then to the electrodes on the brain via percutaneous cables that connect the system. This, in turn, creates a phosphene, or point of light, image in the visual field of the blind patient.

Future goals include development of an automated system for phosphene mapping, a crucial technology to optimize the patient's visual perception. In addition, an objective clinical means of evaluating the vision prosthesis will be developed with the collaboration of physicians in neurosurgery, neurology and ophthalmology on the campus of Stony Brook University "The Dobelle family and ABD are pleased that Dr. Dobelle's lifelong work will continue," added, Linda Towler, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of ABD.

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About the Center for Biotechnology

The Center for Biotechnology at Stony Brook University, funded by the New York State Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research (NYSTAR) is a cooperative applied research and development partnership between universities, private industry and New York State. It is involved in the development of commercially promising technologies in partnership with New York State companies, and the creation of strategic infrastructure that promotes the growth of the life sciences industry.

About Avery Biomedical Devices, Inc. (ABD)ABD manufactures breathing pacemakers; an implanted phrenic nerve stimulator which can be used to free many quadriplegic and apneic patients from mechanical ventilation. In addition, ABD manufactures high-quality platinum contact electrodes for research projects, clinical trials, and commercially distributed medical devices. The Company has proprietary designs, as well as dozens of cuff and button-style electrode configurations available for rapid deployment. Their clean room manufacturing environment is qualified under ISO 14644-1 (Federal Standard 209E) to ISO 6 (Class 1,000) specifications. ABD is IS0-9001 certified, ISO-13485 compliant, and an FDA registered manufacturer of Class III medical devices. Contact: Linda Towler, Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Avery Biomedical Devices, Inc. 61 Mall Drive Commack, NY 11725 631-864-1600 fax: 631-864-1610, www.Averybiomedical.com.

About Dr. William H. Dobelle

Dr. Dobelle was a biomedical pioneer who sought to better the lives of his fellow man through implanted medical devices. His pioneering research in intracochlear stimulation, the total artificial heart, phrenic nerve stimulation and most notably artificial vision for the blind, has and will continue to benefit patients around the world. Dr. Dobelle was a heavily respected member of the scientific community up until his death in October 2004 from a diabetes related condition.