

PRESS RELEASE

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HealthSTATS' BPro® and A-PULSE® CASP win prestigious innovation accolade in Times Higher Education Awards

- *Home-grown medical device company's collaboration with University of Leicester recognised for "Outstanding Contribution to Innovation and Technology" for revolutionising BP measurement for the first time in more than a century*
- *HealthSTATS technology seen to be a game-changer in the early detection of BP-related diseases*

SINGAPORE – 29 November 2011 – HealthSTATS International, a home-grown medical device company that develops and manufactures continuous, non-invasive bio-monitoring devices for monitoring hypertension, today announced that in collaboration with the University of Leicester, and the National Hypertension Society, its BPro® and A-PULSE® CASP devices have clinched top spot in UK's Times Higher Education ("THE") Awards this year in the "**Outstanding Contribution to Innovation and Technology**" category.



Now in its 7th year, the 2011 Times Higher Education Awards comprised 18 prize categories. The Awards represent a unique and high profile opportunity to celebrate the excellence and achievements of UK higher education institutions, and reaffirms the industry's commitment to the two core pursuits of higher education: teaching and research.

Professor Bryan Williams

Professor of Medicine, University of Leicester

HealthSTATS' collaboration with the team at the University of Leicester, led by Professor Bryan Williams, beat stiff competition from six other shortlisted finalist universities, and thousands of other submissions and contenders from Reading, Durham, Salford and Sussex Universities for spearheading the development of a world-first device that could revolutionise the way blood pressure is measured and monitored for the first time in more than a century.

At the award presentation dinner on 24 November 2011, the University team was commended for transforming the measurement and monitoring of blood pressure through the use of 24-hour Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring ("ABPM") as well as Central Aortic Systolic Pressure ("CASP").

The University's contribution to this work was supported by funding from the UK Department of Health's National Institute for Health Research ("NIHR"). The NIHR invested £3.4 million with a further £2.2 million capital funding from the Department of Health to establish the Biomedical Research Unit at Glenfield Hospital, Leicester, dedicated to translational research in cardiovascular research.

Dr Ting Choon Meng, Executive Chairman and CEO of HealthSTATS International, said: "We are thrilled with this latest accolade. This further testifies to the hard work that the teams have put in to change the perception and methods behind conventional blood pressure measurement. There is tremendous interest now in the non-invasive measurement of CASP in clinical studies and practice. We hope our efforts will culminate in improving patient care and reducing the incidences of stroke and heart attacks."

University of Leicester Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Robert Burgess said: "I am delighted to congratulate Professor Bryan Williams on his award. It is richly deserved for a development that will benefit so many people. It is an excellent example of the results of leading edge research."

Professor Bryan Williams said: "I am thrilled that our work and that of colleagues in Singapore has won this award for outstanding contribution to innovation and technology. This is the kind of academic and industry partnership that is essential to take forward ideas into practice through

innovation. I am under no illusion about the magnitude of the change this technique will bring about. It has been a fabulous scientific adventure to get to this point and it will change the way blood pressure has been monitored for more than a century.”

“Leicester is one of the UK’s leading centres for cardiovascular research and is founded on the close working relationship between the University and the Hospitals which allows us to translate scientific research into patient care more efficiently. Key to our contribution to this work has been the support from the NIHR without which we would not have been able to contribute to this tremendous advance. The support of the NIHR has been invaluable in backing us to take this project from an idea to the bedside. Critical to the success of this project has been the synergies of combining clinical academic work here with HealthSTATS and their outstanding medical technology platform in Singapore. This has been the game-changer and I really do think this is going to change clinical practice.”

The use of CASP as an accurate measurement of blood pressure instead of the conventional cuff method has been steadily gaining momentum. This accolade follows an announcement by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in October 2010 that ‘incorporating central blood pressure measurement for safety purposes is welcomed by the FDA¹’; as well as the publication of HealthSTATS’ and University of Leicester’s landmark study on the non-invasive measurement of CASP published in February 2011 in the prestigious Journal of the American College of Cardiology – one of the world’s leading cardiovascular scientific journals widely read by cardiologists around the world.

About BPro® and A-PULSE® CASP

Developed by HealthSTATS, the BPro® device coupled with the A-PULSE® CASP software can be used to measure and calculate a person’s Central Aortic Systolic Pressure (“CASP”) ie blood pressure closest to the heart accurately and non-invasively. HealthSTATS’ proprietary algorithm embedded in all its medical devices has been validated to have an accuracy of 99%, as compared

¹ “Central blood pressure measurements – an opportunity for efficacy and safety in drug development?”, Journal of the American Society of Hypertension 4(5) (2010) 211-214

to the pressure measured by inserting a catheter directly into the aorta close to the heart during a cardiac catheter procedure.

This non-invasive and relatively inexpensive way of measuring CASP is set to rewrite doctors' approach to the diagnosis and treatment of BP-related ailments and steer them away from the conventional brachial blood pressure measurement.

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About CASP

CASP tells the heart's health. It is usually lower than brachial BP ie BP readings taken at the cuff. Typically with age, a patient's arteries will become stiffer, and the patient's CASP reading will rise in tandem. Therefore, if a younger patient's CASP reading is abnormally high, this could be an early indication that the patient is experiencing pre-mature stiffening of their arteries ie hypertension.

Clinical evidence also shows that a rise in CASP is a key cause of target organ damage, cardiac dysfunction and enhanced risk of heart disease and stroke with ageing². It has also been proven that CASP is significantly related to cardiovascular events³. Together with ABPM and arterial pulse waveform (which offers a microscopic view of the hardening of arteries), the three determinants provide medical professionals with a more complete assessment of a patient's hypertensive condition and an evidence-based treatment.

About HealthSTATS International Pte Ltd

Based in Singapore and founded in 2000, HealthSTATS International Pte Ltd is a bio-monitoring medical device company dedicated to technology research and product development of innovative medical devices to provide doctors with an evidence-based approach to monitoring and management of hypertension. The Company's proprietary EVBP[®] technology was developed by a multi-disciplinary team, in collaboration with several institutions like Nanyang Technological University, National University Hospital and the National Heart Centre. The ground-breaking EVBP technology is highly versatile and has a multitude of clinical applications, which include ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM) and continuous non-invasive blood pressure (CNIBP) monitoring, as well as Pulse Waveform analysis (PWA).

Its key bio-monitoring devices and applications, namely BPro[®], A-PULSE CASP[®] software, CASPal[®] and CASPro[®], have obtained FDA 510(k) listing. BPro[®] has also attained the CE (MDD) Mark.

In December 2006, HealthSTATS was conferred the Technology Pioneer 2007 status by the World Economic Forum in its Technology Pioneers 2007 programme, under the Biotechnology & Health category. For more information, visit us at www.healthstats.com.

² "Measurement of Ambulatory Central Aortic Pressure in Clinical Trials using the BPro™ Device", Bryan Williams MD FRCP FAHA, Professor of Medicine, Department of Cardiovascular Sciences, University of Leicester School of Medicine, United Kingdom, Aug 2008

³ "ESH/ESC 2007 Guideline for Management of Hypertension", Journal of Hypertension 2007, Vol 25: 1105-1187