

VAPOTHERM EARNS A TOP AWARD FOR EXHIBIT AT AARC CONGRESS



Vapotherm, the global leader in High Flow Oxygen Therapy products, earned one of the top awards for its exhibit at the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC)'s 54th Annual Convention and Exhibition in Anaheim, California.

Second place honors went to Vapotherm for its exhibit featuring Precision Flow™, the first high flow therapy device to integrate humidification, gas blending, flow control, and full alarm functionality into a single device for the delivery of nasal cannula inspired gases. 510(k) clearance for the Precision Flow was received from the FDA in August.

"The AARC Conference is the premier research and professional meeting for the respiratory therapy field and its exhibit floor is an important educational and sales venue for device manufacturers. We are proud that the AARC recognized our work," said Kevin Thibodeau, Vapotherm's Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing.

DRAEGER ANNOUNCES FDA CLEARANCE FOR PROPORTIONAL PRESSURE SUPPORT



Draeger Medical Systems, Inc., US headquarters of Draeger Medical AG & Co. KG, an international leader in the field of medical technology and a worldwide leader in mechanical ventilation, announced that it has received 510(k) clearance from the FDA to market Proportional Pressure Support, Draeger's latest feature for the Evita XL ventilator.

Proportional Pressure Support generates pressure supported breaths which are directly proportional to patient effort. This technology may minimize the risk of asynchrony between ventilator pressures and the patient's efforts to breathe. By constantly measuring the compliance and resistance of the patient, the support provided remains dynamic and constantly changes to meet patient demand.

"Draeger continues to be on the forefront of technology, the addition of Proportional Pressure Support is another example of Draeger's commitment to research and development for respiratory care – Draeger is proud to again serve our customers with the latest technology" said Ed Coombs, MA RRT, Director, Critical Care and Ventilation for Draeger Medical, Inc.

Proportional Pressure Support for the Evita XL is expected to be commercially available by March 2009 in the US. For more information, please visit their website at www.draeger.com or contact your local Draeger sales representative at 1-800-4DRAGER.

SEQUAL TECHNOLOGIES AND AOTI WORK TOGETHER TO DELIVER OXYGEN SYSTEM ACROSS EUROPE



SeQual Technologies, Inc. (SeQual), developers of medical oxygen concentrators and AOTI Ltd. (AOTI), providers of innovative solutions to resolve severe and chronic wounds, have announced a strategic partnership that will accelerate the widespread availability of the Integra™ and Eclipse 2™, Personal Ambulatory Oxygen System™ (PAOS) across Europe. Additionally, to better serve its customers, all the Customer and Service Support functions of SeQual Technologies Europe will re-locate to Galway, Ireland in the course of the coming months.

By working together, SeQual gains immediate access to the well-respected and experienced AOTI organization. AOTI is adding the Integra and Eclipse 2 lines, in order to focus on improving the lives of sufferers of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) while further enhancing their unique Topical Wound Oxygen (two2™) wound healing technologies.

"Today's partnership brings together two companies whose products benefit patients suffering from COPD as well as those from chronic wounds, such as diabetic, venous and pressure ulcers. These chronic conditions collectively impact millions of patients each year and the overlap between COPD and diabetes is well documented in peer review. By combining our sales, service, and clinical resources we feel confident in offering the European market better overall support," said Ron Richard, CEO, SeQual. "We are excited to have found a partner that understands the marketplace and shares our commitment to COPD sufferers - allowing them to regain the freedom in mobility. We believe the partnership will be welcomed by both existing and future clients."

COVIDIEN WINS 2008 ZENITH AWARD



Established in 1989, the Zenith Award recognizes respiratory care product and service providers who offer exemplary service to the respiratory care community. The award for 2008 was presented during the AARC 54th International Respiratory Congress in Anaheim, CA in December.

Every year, AARC members select the top five respiratory care companies, out of a field of nearly 400, based on the following criteria: quality of equipment and/or supplies, accessibility and helpfulness of sales personnel, responsiveness, service record, truth in advertising and support of the respiratory profession.

"All of these companies have invested considerable resources into providing state-of-the-art products to respiratory patients, and they each have earned the respect and admiration of the respiratory therapists who use these products to deliver high-quality care to their patients," says AARC Chief Operating Officer Thomas J. Kallstrom, BS, RRT, AE-C, FAARC.

"We are honored that the members of AARC have once again chosen us to receive the Zenith Award," said Scott Drake, President, Respiratory and Monitoring Solutions, Covidien. "This award reflects the enduring strength of our commitment to quality and to our customers. We look forward to maintaining the same level of high-quality service, while also supplying many new innovations to assist our customers in caring for their patients."

Covidien is one of the few companies with the long history and in-depth knowledge needed to provide extensive insight into all respiratory care areas -- airways, patient monitoring, ventilation and sleep. Covidien's market-leading respiratory brands, including Nellcor™, Puritan Bennett™, Mallinckrodt™, Shiley™, and Sandman™, offer a wide range of solutions to respiratory clinicians. Covidien's holistic approach to the three key areas of patient safety, medical efficacy and healthcare efficiency is designed to deliver improved outcomes in respiratory care.

MERCK STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE FDA'S UPDATE REGARDING A SAFETY REVIEW OF SINGULAIR®

Merck stands by the proven efficacy and safety of SINGULAIR, a medicine that has been prescribed to tens of millions of patients with asthma and allergic rhinitis for more than 10 years. Nothing is more important to Merck than the safety of its medicines and vaccines. Since distribution of the "FDA Early Communication of an Ongoing Safety Review of Montelukast" on March 27, 2008, the FDA requested that Merck conduct additional evaluations of the data from clinical trials of SINGULAIR for reports of behavior and mood changes, and for reports of suicidality and suicide. Merck has submitted the information requested by the Agency and is preparing to publish the data in a peer-reviewed medical journal.

Merck also continually reviews post-marketing reports as part of its ongoing commitment to monitor the safety profile of its medications. After a thorough review of the data from the controlled clinical trials of SINGULAIR, and a careful assessment of post-marketing adverse events, Merck believes that the data support the continued use of SINGULAIR in appropriate patients with asthma and allergic rhinitis.

Merck agrees with the FDA's statement that the data from clinical trials do not suggest that SINGULAIR is associated with suicide or suicidal behavior, although these clinical trials were not designed specifically to examine neuropsychiatric events. In the suicidality analysis submitted to the FDA, which included 9,929 patients who received SINGULAIR and 7,780 patients who received placebo, there was one adjudicated event of suicidal ideation in one patient (an adult treated with SINGULAIR). There were no completed suicides, suicide attempts or preparatory acts toward suicidal behavior in the group who received SINGULAIR or the group who received placebo. For behavior and mood change analysis and additional information, please visit www.singulair.com.

RESMED OFFERS NEW VERSATILE NASAL MASK



ResMed's Mirage Activa™ LT is a versatile nasal mask with numerous ease-of-use and comfort features designed to promote long-term compliance in an everyday nasal mask. The compact ActiveCell™ cushion automatically adjusts to varying sleeping positions and pressure modes, while the gentle floating seal reduces facial marks and eye irritation from excessive headgear tension and mask-leak. The new streamlined design is 49% quieter and 70% more diffused than the Mirage Activa, dispersing air quietly and gently, improving comfort for the patient and bed partner. Learn more about the Mirage Activa LT at www.resmed.com, or by calling ResMed Customer Service at 800.424.0737.