



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Woodland Heights Unveils Another First in Heart Care***

LUFKIN, TEXAS (August 25, 2006)... Woodland Heights Medical Center today announced another East Texas “first” in heart care. This morning the first implantation of the Kronos LV-T implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) was performed at the Lufkin facility by Dr. Vic Mangla, a Cardiologist with the Heart Institute of East Texas.

According to Dr. Mangla, this state-of-the-art technology is a wireless heart failure monitor that continuously tracks and monitors the status of heart failure patients. Six proven variables (mean heart rate, mean heart rate at rest, patient activity, ventricular ectopy, percentage of CRT, and arterial arrhythmias) are automatically tracked and trended daily to give the physician insight into the patient’s improvement or even impending decompensation - before they end up in the emergency room.

“This automatic, wireless remote monitoring for heart failure patients provides my patients with a higher level of safety and care,” said Dr. Mangla. “With this system, the automatic notification of six heart failure variables allows me to manage my patients’ cardiac care more accurately.

According to the maker of the device, Biotronik, the surveillance and automatic notification features of this new technology are designed to lend a sense of security to both patients requiring implantable device therapy and to their physicians. “The key is the daily trending and messaging. This information is transmitted within as little as 3 seconds to the physician via a pager, cell phone, web, or fax.” Said Michael Leathers, Biotronik Tachycardia Specialist.

The Kronos ICD has recently been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and represents the latest in Biotronik’s pioneering development of devices for Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy for the treatment of heart failure.

Through Home Monitoring™, the Kronos LV-T provides early detection and trending of patients’ heart failure status. Early detection provides physicians with automatic and immediate notification of their patients’ arterial and ventricular arrhythmias. For heart failure patients, the six automated variables allow the physician to follow their patients automatically for a higher level of patient care. Device information and intracardiac (IEGMs) are transmitted from the Kronos LV-T via radiofrequency (RF) communications and allows the physician to view vital patient information anytime, from anywhere.

“We are extremely pleased to offer this state-of-the-art technology to East Texans. Said Woodland Heights Medical Center Chief Executive Officer, Lance Jones. The Heart Center at Woodland Heights and its physicians have performed many “firsts” in heart care here in East Texas. Our patients deserve to have cutting-edge technology close to home.”

Dr. Mangla, who recently joined the Heart Institute of East Texas, comes to the area from Oregon where he was most recently the Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology at the Oregon Health Sciences Center. He is board certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Medicine, Electrophysiology, and Interventional Cardiology.

“We are excited to have Dr. Mangla join the Heart Institute of East Texas. He is the 8<sup>th</sup> specialist on our talented team of highly skilled physicians. The Heart Institute is known for performing many “first” cardiac procedures in East Texas, including the first cardiac catheterization, balloon angioplasty, stent, and internal cardiac defibrillator.” Said Dr. Ravinder Bachireddy, founder of the Heart Institute of East Texas. “Dr. Mangla brings a wealth of experience and new technology to our team. Additionally, he is another reason why patients can choose to have high quality health care close to home.”

### **About Woodland Heights Medical Center**

Established in 1918, Woodland Heights Medical Center was Lufkin’s first hospital. Now, almost nine decades later, Woodland Heights is recognized throughout Deep East Texas as the leading provider of high quality, innovative health care services. In 2006, Woodland Heights Medical Center was named a Distinguished Hospital for clinical excellence—ranking in the nation’s top 5% for clinical care. \* Recognized for its continued excellence in cardiac care, Woodland Heights is a five star rated hospital for the treatment of heart failure. \* Additionally, Woodland Heights is ranked in the nation’s top five percent for pulmonary and gastrointestinal care. \* Accommodating a wide range of clinical specialties, Woodland Heights has achieved excellence in other key medical and surgical areas including neurology, orthopedic surgery, physical medicine/rehabilitation, vascular surgery and obstetrics and gynecology. Woodland Heights also offers a full range of outpatient diagnostic services including advanced imaging, laboratory, outpatient surgery and emergency services. Through its Rehabilitation Center, Woodland Heights offers cardiac rehabilitation, stroke recovery and physical and occupational rehabilitation. Combining modern facilities, leading technology, an exceptional staff and a commitment to the communities it serves, Woodland Heights Medical Center remains at the forefront of quality health care in Deep East Texas.

### **About the Heart Institute of East Texas**

The Heart Institute of East Texas was established in 1981 by Dr. Ravinder Bachireddy. The center houses 8 board certified cardiologists. The Heart Institute has a cardiac catheterization lab, nuclear lab, echocardiography, holter monitoring, and stress testing. They provide care in Polk, Jasper, Trinity, Tyler, San Augustine, and Sabine counties.

### **About Biotronik**

Biotronik’s U.S. headquarters are located near Portland, Oregon. Started in 1963, Biotronik today ranks as one of the leading cardiac rhythm management (CRM) companies, conducting business in over 60 countries worldwide and providing a full range of innovative cardiovascular products of the highest quality and reliability. Biotronik has pioneered many innovative

technologies, including Closed Loop Stimulation<sup>®</sup> and Home Monitoring<sup>®</sup>, which provides real-time early detection of arrhythmias and disease progression through proprietary wireless technology. Biotronik's motto, "Technology Helping to Heal," is reflected in the company's primary guiding principle: helping patients by researching, developing, and marketing biomedical products to restore, secure, and enhance their quality of life.

Cutline: Dr. Vic Mangla shows some of the latest technology in heart care, Biotronik's Home Monitoring that provides early detection of arrhythmias and disease progression through wireless technology.