

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**VNS THERAPY FOR TREATMENT RESISTANT DEPRESSION (TRD) NOW
AVAILABLE IN BATESVILLE**

*White River Medical Center to Offer management of the Only Implantable Device
Specifically Indicated for Long-term Treatment of TRD*

Batesville, Ark. –White River Medical Center announced it is the first in the area to offer vagus nerve stimulation (VNS) Therapy as a long-term treatment specifically approved by the FDA for treatment-resistant depression (TRD). Witold Czerwinski, M.D. is the first physician in the area certified to manage VNS Therapy. VNS Therapy is approved as a long-term add-on treatment for patients 18 years of age and older who are experience depression that does not improve with traditional treatments such as medication and counseling. VNS Therapy is the first treatment specifically studied and approved for TRD.

VNS Therapy is delivered from a small pacemaker-like device implanted just under the skin in the chest area that sends mild pulses to the brain via the vagus nerve in the neck. A thin, thread-like wire, attached to the device, runs under the skin to the left vagus nerve. The vagus nerve serves as the body's "information highway" connecting the brain to many major organs. The impulses stimulate the central part of the brain that controls mood an emotion.

Patients with the device continue traditional therapy such as medication and counseling. The device is monitored by the patient's Psychiatrist. At regular intervals during follow up visits the Psychiatrist obtains readings from the device and adjusts it as needed. The device is powered by a long life battery that will last from six to 11 years.

In clinical studies of VNS Therapy, more than half of the patients who had experienced an average of 25 years of major depressive disorder and multiple treatment trials realized some clinical benefit, one third of the patients had at least a 50 percent improvement in their depression, and one out of six was depression-free after one year and two years of treatment with VNS Therapy. Patients also reported significant improvements in quality-of-life areas, such as vitality, mental health, emotional well-being, and social functioning.

Major depressive disorder is one of the most prevalent and serious illnesses in the U.S., affecting nearly 19 million Americans every year. Of those, 20 percent, or approximately 4 million people, experience depression that does not respond to multiple antidepressant treatments. For these people, treatments including psychotherapy, antidepressant

medications and even sometimes electroconvulsive therapy do not work, or they work for a short while, but stop working over time. VNS Therapy is an important treatment option for these people.

“Patients with TRD need additional options. The availability of VNS Therapy is an important treatment option for millions of people who, until now, have not had access to a proven long-term option to control depressive symptoms,” said Dr. Witold Czerwinski, M.D. “It is especially important to know that clinical study results have shown that some patients achieve increasing benefits from VNS Therapy over time and experience sustained results. Additionally, VNS Therapy is very tolerable, and side effects typically diminish over time.”

For more information on VNS Therapy, call the WRHS Behavioral Health Clinic at 870-2621357. Information is also available at www.vnstherapy.com or by calling 1-877-NOW-4-VNS.

For Interested Press

Press kits including additional information on depression and VNS Therapy, photos, b-roll and animation are available from Schwartz Communications at cyberonicsdepression@schwartz-pr.com.

ABOUT VNS THERAPY AND CYBERONICS

Cyberonics, Inc. was founded in 1987 to design, develop and market medical devices for the long-term treatment of epilepsy, depression and other chronic treatment-resistant disorders using a unique therapy, vagus nerve stimulation (VNS). Stimulation is delivered by the VNS Therapy System™, an implantable generator similar to a cardiac pacemaker. The VNS Therapy System delivers preprogrammed intermittent mild electrical pulses to the vagus nerve in the patient’s neck 24 hours a day. The VNS Therapy System was approved by the FDA on July 15, 2005 “as an adjunctive long-term treatment for chronic or recurrent depression for patients 18 years of age and older who are experiencing a major depressive episode and have not had an adequate response to four or more adequate antidepressant treatments.” The VNS Therapy System has been approved for sale in the European Economic Area and in Canada as a treatment for depression in patients with treatment-resistant or treatment-intolerant major depressive episodes, including unipolar depression and bipolar disorder (manic depression) since 2001. VNS Therapy is at various levels of investigational clinical study as a potential treatment for anxiety disorders, Alzheimer’s disease, chronic headache/migraine and bulimia.