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Second Sight to Double Patient Enrollment for Argus II Retinal Implant U.S. Clinical Trial

*Preliminary Results of Worldwide Feasibility Study to be Presented
at ARVO Annual Meeting in Ft. Lauderdale*

Sylmar California, May 4, 2009 – Second Sight[®] Medical Products, Inc., the leading developer of retinal prostheses for the blind, announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted approval for up to 20 people who are blind or who have severely impaired vision due to the genetic eye disease, Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP), to participate in the Argus[™] II Retinal Implant feasibility study in the U.S. Currently, 10 RP volunteers are participating in the U.S. study and an additional 12 RP volunteers are participating in similar studies throughout Europe and Mexico. Dr. Mark Humayun of Doheny Eye Institute at the University of Southern California (USC), will present six-month study results for the first 17 individuals who are enrolled at sites throughout the U.S., Europe and Mexico this week during the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) annual meeting.

The presentation titled, “Preliminary Results from the Argus II Feasibility Study: A 60 Electrode Epiretinal Prosthesis,” will take place on Wednesday, May 6 from 4:15 – 4:30 pm EST in Room 114 at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale, FL. “We are excited to share the latest outcomes for what we believe is the largest visual prosthesis study underway worldwide,” commented Dr. Humayun. “The results demonstrate preliminary safety and the potential to achieve spatial localization, motion detection, orientation, mobility and other skills using a retinal implant for people who are blind or whose vision is severely compromised.”

The Argus II, the latest device being studied in today’s feasibility studies, is a three-part system designed to transmit information about the physical environment directly to an individual’s retina, thus bypassing the photoreceptors that have been damaged due to RP. It consists of a 60-electrode grid that is surgically implanted and attached to the retina. These electrodes transmit information acquired from an external video camera that is mounted on a pair of eyeglasses worn by study volunteers. The implant has been designed to last many years, but can be safely removed if necessary.

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"We are pleased that the FDA has approved our request for increased enrollment of the U.S. cohort of our international clinical trial," said Robert Greenberg, MD, PhD, President and CEO of Second Sight. "We expect this data to continue to demonstrate a good safety profile with significant efficacy improvements and to move us one step closer to European and US market approvals."

Six leading ophthalmic centers throughout the U.S. are participating in the study and actively recruiting study volunteers. These centers include the Doheny Eye Institute at the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles, CA; the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD; the University of California at San Francisco, CA ; the Retina Foundation of the Southwest in Dallas, TX; Columbia University Medical Center/ Lighthouse International in New York, NY and Scheie Eye Institute/Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, PA.

Four major European centers are participating and actively enrolling volunteers in the study. These centers include Service d'Ophtalmologie, Hôpital Cantonal Universitaire de Genève in Geneva, Switzerland; Le Centre Hospitalier National d'Ophtalmologie des Quinze-Vingts in Paris, France; Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, UK and Central Manchester University Hospital in Manchester, UK. The study is also being conducted at Centro de Retina Medica y Quirurgica, SC, Centro Medico Puerta de Hierro, CUCS and Universidad de Guadalajara in Guadalajara, Mexico.

"The clinical trial expansion for the Argus II retinal prosthesis is great news," said Stephen Rose, PhD., Chief Research Officer, Foundation Fighting Blindness. "The technology holds real promise for giving some meaningful vision to people with the most advanced retinal degenerative diseases. The Argus II is impressive technology with excellent potential for giving people more mobility and independence."

The development of this technology was supported by the National Eye Institute (NEI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Department of Energy's Office of Science (DOE) Artificial Retina Project, which is helping to advance the implant's design and construction. Significant private investment by Alfred Mann, Sam Williams and others have also made this progress possible.

More information on the trial can be found on clinicaltrials.gov at the following URL: <http://clinicaltrials.gov> keyword 'Argus'.

If you know of a suitable candidate, or if you are a physician with further questions, please contact patients@2-sight.com or 818-833-5027.

About Second Sight

Second Sight® Medical Products, Inc., located in Sylmar, Calif., is a privately held company founded in 1998 by Alfred Mann and others with the goal of creating a retinal prosthesis to provide sight to subjects blinded from outer retinal degenerations, such as *Retinitis Pigmentosa*. Through dedication and innovation, Second Sight's mission is to develop, manufacture and market implantable visual prosthetics to enable blind individuals to overcome their disability and achieve greater independence. The company has received extensive U.S. federal support in developing this new technology and is grateful for the forward thinking of the National Institutes of Health/National Eye Institute and the Office of Science at the Department of Energy in supporting significant aspects of this work. For more see www.2-sight.com.

This press release contains forward-looking statements. Second Sight Medical Products wishes to caution the reader that actual results may differ from those discussed in the forward-looking statements, and may be adversely affected by, among other things, risks associated with new product development and commercialization, clinical trials, regulatory approvals, reimbursement, and other factors. Second Sight is a registered trademark and Argus is a trademark of Second Sight Medical Products, Inc.