Company Continues Fight Against Type 2 Diabetes And Obesity

Covidien will be the presenting sponsor at the American Diabetes Association EXPOs in New York and Minneapolis

NORTH HAVEN, Conn.-- (BUSINESS WIRE) — Sep. 21, 2009-- Covidien (NYSE: COV), a global provider of health care products, announces it will be the presenting sponsor of the American Diabetes Association's Diabetes EXPOs in New York City and Minneapolis. In addition, Covidien is sponsoring educational workshops at the Diabetes EXPOs in Atlanta, Boston, and Seattle in the spring of 2010.

The Diabetes EXPO will be held in New York City on September 26, 2009, at the Jacob Javits Convention Center and in Minneapolis on October 24, 2009, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

In May 2009, Covidien launched the nationwide Our Resolution program that educates, inspires and engages Americans who struggle with diabetes and obesity. Teaming with the American Diabetes Association (ADA), the nation's largest and leading voluntary health organization dedicated to the fight against diabetes, is the newest element of the Our Resolution program.

"In January 2009, the ADA's 'Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes' added a section on bariatric surgery noting that people with type 2 diabetes and a body mass index of 35 and above may be candidates for bariatric surgery1," said Michael Tarnoff, M.D., FACS, Chief Medical Officer & Vice President Medical Affairs, Surgical Devices, Covidien. "The EXPO is a perfect opportunity for us to interact with the public and showcase the life-changing opportunities and lifestyle choices available through bariatric surgery for people battling obesity and type 2 diabetes."

According to the World Health Organization, the worldwide incidence of diabetes is projected to grow from 171 million cases to 366 million worldwide by 20302. According to the ADA, the overall economic cost of diabetes in the U.S. in 2007 was estimated at $174 billion3.

"Diabetes EXPO provides the public with a unique opportunity to talk with health care experts and obtain important medical and nutrition information," said Elizabeth Seaquist, M.D. Chair of the Minneapolis Diabetes EXPO. "For people who might have questions about bariatric surgery or mistakenly think that this is a 'quick fix' to a health problem, they will benefit from learning as much as possible about what this treatment entails, the need for life-long lifestyle support, and medical monitoring. We are pleased that Covidien has chosen to be a Presenting Sponsor of our EXPOs in New York City and Minneapolis and is willing to share information about potential risks and benefits of bariatric type of surgery in both the short and long-term."

Covidien's workshops at EXPO will explore the future of bariatric surgery and its role in helping resolve type 2 diabetes. Francesco Rubino, M.D., a world-renowned expert on the surgical treatment of type 2 diabetes and the head of the innovative Diabetes Surgery Center at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical College, will educate attendees on the application of bariatric surgery in the management of type 2 diabetes.

"For some, bariatric surgery is a life-saving therapy, and new studies suggest that the surgical resolution of diabetes is possible, "said Dr. Rubino. "It is imperative that patients and physicians be exposed to educational initiatives that present the benefits and risks of bariatric surgery in a balanced way. Patients deserve the right to choose a therapeutic option with life-saving potential."

Dr. Judith Korner, Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine and Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism at Columbia University and Director of the Weight Control Center at Columbia University Medical Center, will discuss the pharmacological and medical implications of a lifelong regimen of diabetes medications.

"For most patients, getting blood glucose under control is a daunting task that requires several medications," stated Dr. Korner. "It is important to choose these medications wisely as some may cause weight gain, making it even more difficult to control glucose levels."

Author, motivational speaker and frequent Oprah Winfrey Show guest Stacey Halprin will present the patient aspect of bariatric surgery by sharing her personal experience of managing type 2 diabetes through surgery. Halprin lost over 300 lbs. after undergoing gastric bypass in 2002. She is the author of Winning After Losing; How to Keep the Weight Off Forever and has given countless talks on her journey from a morbidly obese woman with type 2 diabetes to a healthy, active woman.

In addition to Our Resolution, Covidien launched an educational bariatric website, www.bariatrics4diabetes.com [1]. The site contains detailed information on bariatric surgery and its impact on diabetes, and features success stories of people who have undergone the surgery and experienced resolution of their type 2 diabetes.

1Diabetes Care, January 2009 32:S3-S5; doi:10.2337/dc09-S003

2 World Health Organization, Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/publications/facts/diabe es/en/index.html

3 American Diabetes Association original study, Economic Costs of Diabetes in the U.S. in 2007, http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/31/3/596.full'"

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[1] http://www.bariatrics4diabetes.com