

News Release

For Immediate Release

Dr. Leland (Lee) N. Benson Recognized With The 2004 MEDEC Award for Medical Achievement

Toronto (June 3, 2005) – Dedication to the research, development and invention of *The Radio Frequency Perforation System* has earned Dr. Leland (Lee) N. Benson the prestigious 2004 MEDEC Award for Medical Achievement. The award was presented today at a special award ceremony at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. **MEDEC** – Canada's Medical Device Technology Companies – established the award in 1979 to recognize Canadian scientists who have made significant contributions to the advancement of medicine and whose work is acknowledged in Canada and internationally.

“Dr. Benson's commitment to Radio Frequency technology and the subsequent advancement of paediatric and adult cardiology means that Canadian patients gain access to treatments that ultimately improve health outcomes,” said Stephen Dibert, MEDEC President and CEO.

The innovative Radio Frequency Perforation System uses Radio Frequency (RF) technology to create small perforations in heart tissue. These perforations are often necessary in patients with heart disorders to establish blood flow where it did not exist before, or to create pathways in the heart to access areas that require treatment. Prior to this development work, there was no other system like this available to interventional cardiologists.

“Throughout his career, Dr. Benson has made incredible contributions to the advancement of many aspects of paediatric cardiology,” points out Frank Baylis, President of Baylis Medical Company Inc. and a Board of Director at MEDEC. “His commitment to the development of the RF perforation system has revolutionized the standard of care worldwide for treating patients suffering from certain congenital heart defects. Where once an open heart surgery was the only option; patients can now be successfully treated in a minimally invasive manner with the RF perforation system.”

Dr. Benson has been the Head of Interventional Cardiology at the Hospital for Sick Children since 1992. He is author of over 250 original articles, numerous book chapters, and several textbooks. In addition to his focus in Interventional Cardiology, a major interest and clinical focus is in the management of heart failure and cardiomyopathies in paediatrics.

MEDEC is the national industry association representing medical device and diagnostic companies. Our members are dedicated to serving the healthcare community through the provision of high quality medical products and services that benefit Canadians. MEDEC serves as the primary source for advocacy, information and education for the medical device industry.

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