ViaCyte Names Michael Scott Vice President, Device Research & Development

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SAN DIEGO, June 15, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- **ViaCyte, Inc.** today announced the appointment of Michael J. Scott, Ph.D. as Vice President, Device Research and Development, reporting to John West, President and Chief Executive Officer. In this capacity, Dr. Scott will oversee all device development and manufacturing activities, including design, engineering, and testing. Dr. Scott will also contribute to regulatory matters in the device area and to the overall leadership and strategic direction of the Company.

"We are pleased to have Mike join ViaCyte. He has a successful track record of leading complex device development projects, from technical innovation through clinical implementation," said Mr. West. "We expect Mike's experience with implantable medical devices, together with our stem cell expertise, will effectively advance our combination product toward regulatory approval."

Before joining ViaCyte, Dr. Scott served in multiple managerial positions at Edwards Lifesciences, a publically traded company focused on the science of heart valves and hemodynamic monitoring. Dr. Scott's most recent role was Senior Director of Engineering, Heart Valve Therapies, in which he managed high profile products that are currently in preclinical and clinical trial phases with commercialization expected later this year. Dr. Scott also served as the Technical Team Leader for a bioprosthetic heart valve which is currently the best selling product of its type worldwide, generating over $100 million in annual revenue.

Dr. Scott's past experience also includes the role of Vice President of Research and Development at Orqis Medical Corporation, a venture-backed medical device startup. Dr. Scott led Orqis to the first human use of a sophisticated implantable blood pump system for the treatment of congestive heart failure. His broad range of responsibilities also included the oversight of system design and developme
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