VEXIM strengthens its management team naming Marie-Pierre Hontas as Clinical Affairs Director

The Associated Press

TOULOUSE, France--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jun 6, 2012-- Regulatory News: Vexim (FR0011072602 ALVXM), a Med-Tech company that specializes in minimally invasive treatment of vertebral fractures, has announced the appointment of Marie-Pierre Hontas as Clinical Affairs Director.

Marie-Pierre Hontas has over 20 years of experience in international clinical research acquired in the pharmaceutical and medical device industries. Marie-Pierre will lead the Clinical Department team including current and future clinical programs and will closely collaborate with the Sales & Marketing team, the Scientific Bureau and the Key Opinion Leaders.

Graduated in Biology, Marie-Pierre Hontas started her career in the pharmaceutical industry at Pierre Fabre Toulouse as medical sales representative and then Clinical Research Associate in the Institute of Research and Development Pierre Fabre. From 1996 she oriented her career to international clinical research as Senior Clinical Research Associate for a Clinical Research Organization (IBRD Rostrum UK) and pharmaceutical research and development as International Training coordinator and Senior Clinical Research Associate (Parke Davis Paris France and Ann Arbor Michigan US, Lundbeck Italy). In 2000, she joined Stryker Europe clinical affairs group as Clinical Study manager and Senior CRA for hip, knee and spinal implants. In 2002, she collaborated with several companies including Serono Geneva Switzerland, Actelion, Xanthus pharmaceuticals Canada as Clinical Research Associate contractor before joining Philip Morris International Research and Development Switzerland where she was Clinical Study Manager. Prior to joining Vexim, Marie-Pierre Hontas was Director Scientific Affairs Europe for Spineart in Geneva Switzerland.

” We are very pleased to welcome Marie-Pierre whose solid international experience in the pharmaceutical and medical device industry, along with her scientific and clinical expertise, will help her to take efficiently in charge and drive the clinical affairs direction, a strategic component of Vexim“, said Vincent Gardès, CEO, Vexim.

” I am delighted to be joining an innovative and recognized company such as Vexim and I am looking forward working on exciting projects including SpineJack(R) “, stated Marie-Pierre Hontas.

Marie-Pierre Hontas graduated from ” Ecole Supérieure des techniques de Biologie Appliquée de Paris “. She is fluent in French, English, Spanish and Italian.

About Vexim Based in Balma, near Toulouse in southwestern France, Vexim is a

medical device company set up in February 2006 following the spin-off of research at Teknimed, a world leader in bone substitutes and surgical cement. Vexim specialises in developing and marketing minimally invasive solutions for the treatment of spinal trauma.

Backed by its longstanding shareholders Truffle Capital and Banexi Venture, plus funding from state-owned Oseo, Vexim designed and now markets SpineJack(R), a unique implant capable of restoring a fractured vertebrae's initial form and thus rebalancing the anatomy of the backbone. The company current has 27 employees. It also has its own sales team in France and in Germany, and distributors in Spain, Portugal, Italy, Turkey, Argentina and South Africa. For more information, visit www.vexim.com.

About the SpineJack(R) range of implants The standard SpineJack(R) is a titanium implant (5 mm in diameter and 25 mm long) that covers 80% of spinal column fractures (vertebrae TH10 to L5) and two new sizes (6.5 mm and 4.2 mm in diameter, respectively) supplemented, since June 2011, the array and enabled the SpineJack(R) product range to address nearly all types of vertebral fractures. The implant is inserted into a patient's vertebra via a transpedicular, minimally invasive approach (just one or two 5 mm skin incisions). A simple but specialized set of instruments is used to prepare the vertebra for the X-ray-guided insertion of one or two implants, depending on the anatomical configuration of the fracture and the degree of reconstruction required, as determined by the physician.

Once this step has been completed, bone cement is injected into the restored vertebra in order to secure the vertebral structure and relieve the patient's pain. A trained surgeon takes only 25 to 35 minutes to complete the whole procedure. The patient can expect a very significant reduction in pain immediately after the operation and will rapidly be discharged from hospital.

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