Aethlon Medical (AEMD) Note: A Medical Device Strategy to Address Metastatic Melanoma

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SAN DIEGO, Dec. 7, 2012 /PRNewswire/ --Aethlon Medical, Inc. (OTCBB: AEMD), today released the following note authored by its Chairman and CEO, Jim Joyce.

At Aethlon Medical, our focus is to create revolutionary medical devices that save lives. In the treatment of Hepatitis C (HCV) infected individuals, we have demonstrated that our Hemopurifier® synergistically combines with drug therapy to accelerate the achievement of undetectable viral load. In cancer, I envision our opportunity to save lives will be driven by the discovery that our Hemopurifier® can addresses a therapeutic target that plays a pivotal role in cancer progression, yet remains beyond the reach of drug therapies. The target? Microvesicles known as exosomes, which are particles secreted by tumors underlying a wide-range of cancers.

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When we first initiated our tumor-derived exosome research, it was based on a belief that these particles were immunosuppressive, much like glycoproteins that shed from HIV and other viral pathogens. However, the medical community consensus at the time was that exosomes had no biological function other than to discard cellular debris. Today, tumor-derived exosomes are known to suppress the immune response in cancer patients. Beyond possessing immunosuppressive properties, tumor-derived exosomes facilitate tumor growth, metastasis, and the development of drug resistance. Such deleterious effects underlie the pathogenesis of cancer, and as a result of our early research we have been able to obtain broad patent protection in the field. By addressing this unmet medical need, our objective is to deliver a medical device that improves the benefit of cancer therapies without adding drug resistance or interaction risks.

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