



The Best Outcomes in Cardiology

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **The Care Group Participates in Groundbreaking Stem Cell Trial for Heart Attack Patients**

(Indianapolis) --The Care Group, LLC, Indiana's largest cardiology and primary care physician network, today announced their participation in a national stem cell research trial. As the only site in Indiana, and one of 10 sites in the U.S., The Care Group had eight of 53 heart attack patients enrolled in the Osiris study, a ground breaking clinical trial evaluating the drug PROVACEL. Participants in the double-blinded placebo controlled two-year study showed positive six-month results for the treatment of heart disease from adult or mesenchymal stem cells (MSC).

Results of the study showed PROVACEL to be safe, both in improved patient health with lowered rates of cardiac arrhythmias and improvement in heart, lung function and over all health. PROVACEL was found to be well tolerated at all dose levels and there were no patient deaths, toxicity and fewer adverse events in patients who received PROVACEL compared to placebo.

The stem cells used in PROVACEL are readily available and easy to administer in a standard IV line. The broad clinical application results will be utilized for the next stage of clinical trials. The safety and efficacy profile is very strong and the ease of treatment model supports wide scale use. According to James B. Hermiller, MD, FACC, the study's principal investigator for The Care Group at St.Vincent Heart Center of Indiana, "The study's encouraging results are expected to quickly move clinical testing to the next phase. We are very pleased with the outcomes we've seen from this trial."

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**The Care Group, LLC, with 133 cardiologists and primary care physicians, is the largest non-academic practice in the United States and is recognized as a premier site for cardiovascular services, including prevention, diagnosis, treatment and research. The Care Group has 52 locations throughout Indiana with three Indianapolis flagship locations at St.Vincent Heart Center of Indiana at 106<sup>th</sup> & North Meridian and at 86<sup>th</sup> Street and at Methodist Hospital. The Care Group physicians pioneered many treatments in cardiology including angioplasty, atherectomy and stents.**

**The Care Group is proud to be the exclusive provider of cardiac services for St.Vincent Heart Center of Indiana, the #1 cardiovascular program in Indiana and in the top 5% in the United States for overall cardiac services as rated in both 2006 and 2007 by HealthGrades, America's leading provider of independent hospital ratings.**

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