Surgeons in Vancouver, British Columbia Named to Develop First North American Zimmer Institute Satellite

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WARSAW, Ind., Dec 05, 2003 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via Comtex/ -- Zimmer Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: ZMH) (SWX: ZMH) today announced an international association with a noted team of surgeons in Vancouver to advance its Minimally Invasive Solutions(TM) (MIS(TM)) Procedures and Technologies. The team is affiliated with the University of British Columbia, which has an international reputation for excellence in research and learning. The University's Department of Orthopaedics enjoys prominence in outcomes research under the leadership of Dr. Clive Duncan.

Under terms of the agreement, the surgical team will develop a Zimmer Institute teaching facility and will participate in MIS product development, provide research input, and contribute to clinical and economic outcomes studies.

Minimally Invasive Solutions Procedures and Technologies represent Zimmer's premier minimally invasive surgical brand, which encompasses several recent breakthroughs in orthopaedic surgery, including: Mini-Incision Hip Procedure and Zimmer MIS 2-Incision(TM) Hip Procedure; Mini-Incision Total Knee Arthroplasty (TKA) and Quad-Sparing(TM) Total Knee Procedure; and partial knee replacement using Zimmer's M/G(R) Unicompartmental Knee. Zimmer has a number of patent applications on file related to its MIS technology and recently was granted a U.S. methods patent on the surgical procedure used for the MIS 2-Incision hip replacement technique.

The Zimmer Institute comprises the company's state-of-the-art professional training facility in Warsaw, Ind., together with affiliated programs at satellite academic centers, all of which focus on expanding the availability of MIS joint replacement by providing skills and knowledge-based training to surgeons and other health care professionals. The company expects to provide training for more than 1,400 surgeons in MIS surgical techniques during 2004 at all Institute locations. Satellite locations, such as the one in Vancouver, will contribute to the pool of research and best practices. Zimmer expects to work with approximately 10 to 12 North American and 10 international institutions as Zimmer Institute affiliates.

"The University of British Columbia is a renowned academic and research institution, and we are pleased to be working with Dr. Duncan and his colleagues to extend the availability of minimally invasive surgical solutions and training for physicians and patients worldwide," said Zimmer Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Ray Elliott. "We look forward to working together to develop new MIS concepts and techniques, conduct patient research and continue to advance patient care."

"Recovery is so much easier on patients who are able to have their knees and hips replaced in a minimally invasive fashion, if this can be done expertly, without complication and in a specialized setting with a health care team which is focused on the principles of minimally invasive surgical techniques," said Dr. Duncan, Professor and Head of Orthopaedics at the University and at Vancouver General Hospital. "Working with Zimmer, we can continually refine current techniques, develop new ones and extend the practice safely to the community-based setting."

A noted lecturer, author and researcher, Dr. Duncan performs hip replacement and other orthopaedic surgeries at Vancouver General Hospital, where he has built a team of reconstructive surgeons with increasing international renown, including Drs. Bas Masri, Don Garbuz and Nelson Greidanus. Dr. Duncan is among the elite corps of orthopaedic surgeons who continues to develop minimally invasive surgical techniques and instrumentation for hip replacement. He and his team are credited with numerous innovations in hip and knee surgery.

University of British Columbia researchers, who conduct more than 5,225 investigations annually, attracted $377 million in research funding in 2002/2003. The Department of Orthopaedics at the university is recognized for its research across the entire spectrum of musculoskeletal disorders, as well as for its basic science study in biomedical engineering and molecular biology. Vancouver General Hospital, a 950-bed facility offering a full spectrum of medical and surgical services, is the major patient care, teaching and research hospital in British Columbia.

Founded in 1927 and headquartered in Warsaw, Indiana, Zimmer is the worldwide pure-play leader in the design, development, manufacture and marketing of reconstructive orthopaedic, spinal and dental implants, trauma products and related orthopaedic surgical products. Zimmer has operations in more than 24 countries around the world and sells products in more than 80 countries. In October, 2003, the company finalized its acquisition of Centerpulse AG, a Switzerland-based orthopaedic company and the leader in the European market. For the year 2002, the worldwide combined revenues of Zimmer and Centerpulse were approximately $2.2 billion, supported by the efforts of nearly 7,000 employees.

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Safe Harbor Statement

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 based on current expectations, estimates, forecasts and

projections about the orthopaedics industry, management's beliefs and assumptions made by management. Forward-looking statements may be identified by the use of forward-looking terms such as "may," "will," "expects," "believes," "anticipates," "plans," "estimates," "projects," "targets," "forecasts," and "seeks" or the negative of such terms or other variations on such terms or comparable terminology. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions that could cause actual outcomes and results to differ materially. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, our ability to successfully integrate Centerpulse AG, price and product competition, rapid technological development, demographic changes, dependence on new product development, the mix of our products and services, supply and prices of raw materials and products, customer demand for our products and services, control of costs and expenses, our ability to form and implement alliances, international growth, U.S. and foreign government regulation, product liability and intellectual property litigation losses, reimbursement levels from third-party payors, general industry and market conditions and growth rates and general domestic and international economic conditions including interest rate and currency exchange rate fluctuations. For a further list and description of such risks and uncertainties, see the disclosure materials filed by Zimmer with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Registration Statement on Form S-4 that will be filed for this transaction. Zimmer disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Readers of this document are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, since, while we believe the assumptions on which the forward-looking statements are based are reasonable, there can be no assurance that these forward-looking statements will prove to be accurate. This cautionary statement is applicable to all forward-looking statements contained in this document.

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