NEWS RELEASE

Athersys to Present at the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Virtual Healthcare Conference on May 14

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CLEVELAND--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Athersys, Inc. (NASDAQ: ATHX) announced today that Gil Van Bokkelen, Chairman and CEO, will present a corporate overview at the Bank of America Merrill Lynch 2020 Virtual Healthcare Conference to investors and analysts. The presentation is scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 8:20 a.m. EDT.

Dr. Van Bokkelen will provide a brief overview of the Company's mission and its therapeutic platform, MultiStem® cell therapy. The presentation will include information on the critical care indications in the Company's progressing clinical pipeline, including the Phase 2/3 pivotal trial evaluating MultiStem cell therapy for the treatment of COVID-19 induced acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and its ongoing Phase 3 trial of MultiStem cell therapy for the treatment of ischemic stroke. The Company will also engage in virtual meetings with other institutional representatives at the conference.

A live webcast of the presentation can be accessed at the following link: **http://www.veracast.com/webcasts/bofa/healthcare2020/id85592049.cfm** or by visiting '**Events & Presentations**' in the Investors Section on the Company's website. An archived replay of the webcast will be available one hour after the conclusion of the live event on the Company's website after the conference for a limited time.

About Athersys

Athersys is a biotechnology company engaged in the discovery and development of therapeutic product candidates designed to extend and enhance the quality of human life. The Company is developing its MultiStem® cell therapy product, a patented, adult-derived "off-the-shelf" stem cell product, initially for disease indications in the neurological, inflammatory and immune, cardiovascular and other critical care indications and has several ongoing clinical trials evaluating this potential regenerative medicine product. Athersys has forged strategic partnerships and a broad network of collaborations to further advance the MultiStem cell therapy toward commercialization. More information is available at **www.athersys.com**. Follow Athersys on Twitter at **www.twitter.com/athersys**.

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