



October 7, 2013

Athersys to Present at 2013 Stem Cell Meeting on the Mesa

CLEVELAND, Oct. 7, 2013 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Athersys, Inc. (Nasdaq:ATHX) announced today that Gil Van Bokkelen, Chairman and CEO of Athersys, will present at the 3rd Annual Regenerative Medicine (Regen Med) Partnering Forum, part of the Stem Cell Meeting on the Mesa to be held October 14-16 in La Jolla, CA.

Organized by the Alliance for Regenerative Medicine (ARM), the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) and the Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine, the 2013 Stem Cell Meeting on the Mesa is a three-day conference aimed at bringing together senior members of the regenerative medicine industry with the scientific research community to advance stem cell science into more effective treatments and potential cures for serious medical conditions where current standard of care does not adequately address patient needs. The Regen Med Partnering Forum, held October 14 & 15 at the Estancia La Jolla Hotel, is the only partnering meeting organized specifically for the regenerative medicine and advanced therapies industry.

The meeting also features a nationally recognized Scientific Symposium, held October 16 at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, showcasing leading academic research in the field of regenerative medicine. Combined, these meetings attract over 800 attendees from around the globe, fostering key partnerships through one-on-one meetings, while also highlighting clinical and commercial progress in the field.

The following are specific details regarding Athersys' presentation at the conference:

Event: Regen Med Partnering Forum — 2013 Stem Cell Meeting on the Mesa

Date: October 15, 2013

Time: 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time

Location: Estancia La Jolla Hotel & Spa, 9700 North Torrey Pines Road,
La Jolla, CA 92037

A live video webcast of all company presentations will be available at: <http://stemcellmeetingonthemesa.com/webcast/> and will also be published on ARM's website shortly after the event.

Please visit <http://stemcellmeetingonthemesa.com/> for full information including registration. Complimentary attendance at this event is available for credentialed investors and members of the media only. Investors and media should contact Laura Parsons at lp Parsons@alliancerm.org.

About Athersys

Athersys is a clinical stage 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" regenerative medicine therapy for disease indications in the cardiovascular, neurological, inflammatory and immune disease areas. The Company currently has several clinical stage programs involving MultiStem, including for treating inflammatory bowel disease, ischemic stroke, damage caused by myocardial infarction, and for the prevention of graft versus host disease. Athersys has also developed a diverse portfolio that includes other technologies and product development opportunities, and has forged strategic partnerships and collaborations with leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, as well as world-renowned research institutions in the United States and Europe to further develop its platform and products. More information is available at www.athersys.com. The Athersys, Inc. logo is available at: <http://www.globenewswire.com/newsroom/prs/?pkgid=4548>.

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