January 7, 2013

Athersys to Present at Biotech Showcase(TM) 2013

CLEVELAND, Jan. 7, 2013 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Athersys, Inc. (Nasdaq:ATHX) announced today that William (B.J.) Lehmann, President and Chief Operating Officer, will present at the Biotech Showcase™ 2013 Conference to be held January 7 through January 9, 2013 in San Francisco, California.

Details of Athersys' participation are as follows:

Event:	**Biotech Showcase™ 2013 Conference**
Date:	Tuesday, January 8, 2013
Time:	3:15 p.m. Pacific Time
Location:	Room Powell: Parc 55 Wyndham San Francisco Union Square Hotel

Earlier that same morning, Dr. Gil Van Bokkelen, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Athersys, will participate in a panel entitled "The 2013 Regenerative Medicine State of the Industry Briefing," from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time.

Co-produced by Demy-Colton Life Science Advisors and EBD Group, Biotech Showcase is an investor and partnering conference devoted to providing private and public biotechnology and life sciences companies an opportunity to present to, and meet with, investors and pharmaceutical executives during the course of one of the industry's largest annual healthcare investor conferences. Now in its fifth year, Biotech Showcase is expected to attract upwards of 1,500 attendees.

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" stem cell product platform 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

About Demy-Colton Life Science Advisors

Demy-Colton Life Science Advisors is focused exclusively on facilitating the growth of the life science industry. Now going into its fifth year, Demy-Colton has developed a number of high-value added conferences to address the business and development needs of the biotechnology industry; it provides partnering services and it has helped launch a unique investor website and newsletter. For more information please visit www.demy-colton.com.

About EBD Group

EBD Group is the leading partnering firm for the global life science industry. Since 1993, biotech, pharma and medical device companies have leveraged EBD Group's partnering conferences, technology and services to identify business opportunities and develop strategic relationships essential to their success. For more information please visit www.ebdgroup.com or follow EBD Group on Twitter at twitter.com/ebdgroup.

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