

May 15, 2003
AnGes MG, Inc.

AnGes MG, Inc. and Goodman Co., Ltd. Execute Exclusive License

AnGes MG, Inc. and Goodman Co., Ltd. have executed an exclusive license which grants to Goodman exclusive rights to patents related to NF-B decoy for the development of a drug coating for stents. AnGes MG is a university-based venture company specializing in the research and development of genetic and nucleic medicines.

Goodman is the Japanese leader in the development, manufacture, and distribution of vascular interventional devices. Goodman will use the NF-B decoy to develop a drug coating to be applied to the Duraflex™ (Avantec Vascular, Inc.) stent, and in developing biodegradable stent, for the prevention of restenosis.

NF-B decoy is expected to play a pivotal role in the prevention of restenosis after PTCA. A key event in the process of restenosis is the migration and the accumulation of blood-derived cells, such as macrophages. NF-B has been shown to regulate the expression of various cytokines and adhesion factors in vascular cells. NF-B decoy restrains the disorder among endothelial cells induced by cytokines, monocytes, or macrophage invasion.

"This is the first collaboration of pharmaceutical and medical device manufactures in Japan " commented Ei Yamada, PhD., president of AnGes MG, and Akira Yamamoto, president of Goodman. "As NF-B decoy acts as a cytostatic drug, a stent eluting NF-B decoy will treat diseased vessels gently, but at the same time be very effective in preventing restenosis, and perhaps in healing vulnerable plaques as well. Additionally, we plan to develop new devices using the NF-B decoy to prevent restenosis in A-V shunts for hemodialysis patients and grafts, will be researching other applications as well. We expect these products to greatly enhance the patient's quality of life."