MARKET ANNOUNCEMENT

New Research - USCOM for Hypertension Screening in Pregnancy (Pre-eclampsia)

Sydney, Australia: Tuesday, 21st April 2015: Uscom (ASX code: UCM) (the Company or Uscom), a revenue stage, cardiovascular medical technology company and manufacturer of the USCOM 1A, is pleased to report publication of a peer reviewed study in the Journal of Pregnancy Hypertension demonstrating that the USCOM 1A can detect pre-eclampsia in otherwise normal pregnant women as early as 5 weeks into pregnancy, and that USCOM 1A screening in early pregnancy may allow more appropriate and earlier interventions and improve outcomes.

Key Points

- Pre-eclampsia, or high blood pressure in pregnancy, is a common complication which increases mortality and morbidity for pregnant mothers and their unborn babies
- An estimated 10 million pregnant women develop pre-eclampsia every year, and early detection and treatment improves outcomes for mothers and babies
- Pre-eclampsia is responsible for approximately 76,000 maternal and 500,000 fetal and neonatal deaths each year (more than 200 and 1300 per day respectively) – (World Health Organization)
- The study found the USCOM 1A detects pre-eclampsia as early as 5 weeks into pregnancy, while conventional blood pressure measures detect it after 20 weeks
- The study concluded that USCOM 1A screening for pre-eclampsia early in pregnancy may allow earlier intervention and improved outcomes.

Professor Valensise and his team from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Rome Tor Vergata have been working on this USCOM 1A project for over 3 years. They conducted a prospective observational trial of normal healthy pregnant women with normal blood pressure and found that USCOM 1A detected the circulatory changes of pre-eclampsia as early as 5 weeks, while the current standard of care, conventional blood pressure monitoring, detects pre-eclampsia after 20 weeks, thus significantly delaying diagnosis and treatment.

Uscom Limited CEO, Associate Professor Rob Phillips said, “This new study provides evidence supporting USCOM 1A screening in early pregnancy. The study suggests USCOM 1A screening will significantly improve pregnancy outcomes and contribute to the saving of lives of mothers and babies worldwide. We are proud that our device is improving care in such an important group. This is the first study to prove that USCOM 1A measurements detect changes in cardiovascular function long before they are detected by simple blood pressure monitors. This potentially revolutionises the way we approach hypertension and all cardiovascular disease, and opens the door to markets worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually to Uscom.”

Maternal health is an emerging USCOM 1A application with a number of leading centres globally researching pre-eclampsia using the USCOM 1A. This publication will accelerate this field of research and support the appointment of new specialised distributors into worldwide maternal health centres thus creating a new revenue stream for Uscom.
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References:

About Uscom

Uscom Limited (UCM) is an ASX listed cardiovascular medical device company. Uscom is an innovative developer and manufacturer of premium cardiovascular devices and has two practice leading technologies in the field of cardiovascular monitoring, the USCOM 1A and the Uscom BP+. Both devices are clinically validated with FDA, CE and TGA regulatory registration, and are currently being marketed into global distribution networks.

The USCOM 1A is a simple, cost-effective and non-invasive device that measures heart function, detects circulatory abnormalities and guides treatment. The USCOM 1A device has major applications in Paediatrics, Emergency, Intensive Care Medicine and Anaesthesia, and is the device of choice for management of adult and paediatric sepsis, heart failure, and for the guidance of fluid therapy.

The Uscom BP+ is a supra systolic Central Blood Pressure monitor and replaces older and more widespread sub systolic Blood Pressure monitoring technology. Central Blood Pressure is emerging as the new standard of care in hypertension and heart failure. The Uscom BP+ provides a highly accurate and repeatable measurement of central and brachial blood pressure and arterial pulse pressure waveforms, measures otherwise only available by cardiac catheterisation. The Uscom BP+ is simple to use and measures from a familiar upper arm cuff, and requires no complex training, and has applications in cardiology, intensive care, general practice and home care.

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