

## **Aortic Valve Bypass Graft Receives Innovation Honor at EACTS Conference**

August, 2007

Cardious, Inc., a development-stage medical device company recently announced that its AvA™ Aortic Valve Bypass System was named one of the top three innovations in the 2007 Techno-College Innovation Award competition sponsored by the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS). The Techno-College Award is a worldwide competition to identify innovations with the potential to change the standard of practice in heart or lung surgery. The award was presented during the opening session of the 21<sup>st</sup> EACTS Annual Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland on September 15, 2007

The AvA™ Aortic Valve Bypass Graft System is a minimally invasive alternative to traditional aortic valve replacement therapy. The patent pending implantable device is composed of two polyester grafts, a titanium valve housing, and an associated cutting tool. Requiring only a small incision between the ribs to expose the beating heart, the device is implanted by a surgeon using the system's innovative cutting tool to bloodlessly connect one of the custom designed grafts into the left ventricle of the beating heart and the other graft to the descending aorta. The surgeon then inserts a commercially available prosthetic heart valve into the titanium valve housing to form an alternative pathway for blood to flow out of the heart. The native valve is left intact and functioning, although the primary blood flow is through the implanted AvA™ device. In preliminary lab tests, the improvement in heart function created by the valve bypass is the same as that obtained with a traditional valve replacement. The valve bypass procedure does not require the patient to undertake the life threatening risks and potential serious side effects associated with the use of a heart-lung machine required in traditional valve replacement surgery.

Cardious Inc. (Northfield, MN) is a medical device company organized to develop and commercialize the AvA™ Aortic Valve Bypass System. Cardious has developed a strong intellectual property portfolio based on proprietary surgical methods, implants, and associated tools required to successfully perform this procedure on a beating heart. Its device has been designed to use a wide range of commercially available prosthetic heart valves. The company's current work is focused on the design, fabrication, testing, and documentation required to support animal studies leading to limited human trials in 2009.