

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS RELEASE
Sunday, March 12, 2006

**STENT REGISTRY SAFETY DATA FAVORS TAXUS® OVER
CYPHER®
IN THE MOST COMPLEX DIABETIC PATIENTS**

**Complex insulin-treated diabetic population shows numerical trend toward
improved MACE outcomes with TAXUS versus Cypher**

Vancouver, BC- March 12, 2006 – Angiotech Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NASDAQ:ANPI; TSX:ANP) today announced that its corporate partner Boston Scientific Corporation (“BSC”) today welcomed results from the independent, multi-center STENT registry, the largest prospective, comparative real world drug-eluting stent study ever reported. The study included follow-up on 5,566 patients at eight coronary centers in the United States who received either a TAXUS® Express2™ paclitaxel-eluting coronary stent system or a Cypher® Stent system, including 1,182 diabetic patients, nearly 500 of whom were insulin-treated diabetics. Among insulin-treated diabetics, the results demonstrated a numerical trend toward improved survival and lower overall Major Adverse Cardiac Events (MACE) rate for patients who received a TAXUS stent system versus those who received a Cypher stent system. The results were presented at the American College of Cardiology’s (ACC) inaugural “Innovation in Intervention: the i2 Summit” in Atlanta.

Among the study’s diabetic patients, the TAXUS stent system was used in more complex lesions. The TAXUS patients had a slightly higher ACC risk score, smaller vessels and longer lesions than Cypher patients.

Despite the higher complexity of the TAXUS patients, the results favored the TAXUS stent system over the Cypher stent system in each of the study’s MACE categories for insulin-treated diabetics. The MACE rate was a composite of death (2.1 percent for TAXUS versus 5.7 percent for Cypher), myocardial infarction (MI, or heart attack) (1.3 percent for TAXUS versus 1.9 percent for Cypher), and target vessel revascularization (TVR) (3.4 percent for TAXUS versus 4.2 percent for Cypher). The overall MACE rate also trended in favor of TAXUS (6.0 percent versus 10.7 percent for Cypher).

“In insulin-treated diabetics there is a slight separation in outcomes favoring the TAXUS stent system, although this did not reach statistical significance,” said Charles Simonton, M.D., chairman of the executive steering committee for the STENT registry. “We plan continued enrollment to further investigate this apparent difference in outcomes.”

“Previous studies have confirmed that paclitaxel and sirolimus have different mechanisms of action, and this study provides additional favorable data regarding the performance of paclitaxel in the treatment of insulin-treated diabetics,” said Paul LaViolette, Chief Operating Officer of Boston Scientific. “These data provide further

support for our belief that the TAXUS stent system should be the preferred choice for the treatment of complex lesions.”

STENT (Strategic Transcatheter Evaluation of New Therapies) is the first U.S., multi-center, prospective registry initiated to evaluate the long-term efficacy and safety of paclitaxel- and sirolimus-eluting coronary stents among real-world patients and clinical situations.

BSC acquired worldwide exclusive rights from Angiotech to use paclitaxel to coat its coronary stent products and has co-exclusive rights to other vascular and non-vascular products.

About Angiotech Pharmaceuticals

Vancouver-based Angiotech Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a specialty pharmaceutical company pioneering the combination of pharmaceutical compounds with medical devices and biomaterials to both create novel solutions for poorly addressed disease states and improve surgical outcomes. To find out more about Angiotech Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NASDAQ: ANPI, TSX: ANP), please visit our website at www.angiotech.com.

Statements contained herein that are not based on historical or current fact, including without limitation statements containing the words "anticipates," "believes," "may," "continue," "estimate," "expects," and "will" and words of similar import, constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the actual results, events or developments to be materially different from any future results, events or developments expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such factors include, among others, the following: general economic and business conditions, both nationally and in the regions in which the Company operates; technology changes; competition; changes in business strategy or development plans; the ability to attract and retain qualified personnel; existing governmental regulations and changes in, or the failure to comply with, governmental regulations; liability and other claims asserted against the Company; and other factors referenced in the Company's filings with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or the Canadian securities regulators. Given these uncertainties, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements. The Company does not assume the obligation to update any forward-looking statements.

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