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Pioneering Medical Education Initiative Brings State-of-the-Art Instruction, Technology to Interventional Cardiologists in Russia

- Crossroads Institute furthers its commitment to improving cardiovascular care with new Executive Fellowship program -

Russia, 1st February 2008 – The Crossroads Institute for Cardiac and Vascular education today announced the launch of a pioneering initiative that will see best-in-class medical centers offering innovative education programs for interventional cardiologists in Novosibirsk, Krasnodar, Moscow and St-Petersburg.

The Crossroads Institute Executive Fellowship Program, supported by an educational grant from Abbott Vascular and designed for newly qualified healthcare professionals, will help support the development of highly-skilled interventional cardiologists in Russia by providing access to the best possible medical education.

Led by national and international experts for their peers, the regional programs will combine cardiac and vascular therapeutic techniques with state-of-the-art technology and the most innovative teaching methodologies available. The standard 12-month program includes modules in disease education, vascular access management, treatment strategies and the technical aspects of balloon and stent catheters.

As an extension of the Crossroads Institute, the Executive Fellowship Program in Russia will offer healthcare professionals 'hands-on' experience of procedures through simulated reality tools and an environment of unbiased peer-to-peer exchange, discussion and debate.

With the ultimate aim of improving patient care and outcomes, the Crossroads Institute Executive Fellowship Program will help to meet unmet specialist needs caused by escalating prevalence and mortality rates for cardiovascular disease in Russia and a rapidly evolving disease management landscape.



The initiative is supported by Professor Jean Marco, Crossroads Institute Education Program Director in Brussels and leader of the faculty recruitment process. “Since the Crossroads Institute launch in 2000, we have prided ourselves on offering real-world educational experiences for healthcare professionals worldwide. The launch of this worthy new initiative marks yet another ground-breaking step – the geographical expansion of the Crossroads Institute ethos and a new generation of medical education programs tailored to meet national needs.”

For media questions, please contact Karin Bauer Aranaz at 001-650-868-2999 or karin.baueraranaz@av.abbott.com. To join the educational faculty for the Crossroads Institute Executive Fellowship Program in Russia, or to enroll, healthcare professionals should contact Oleg Volkov (Oleg.Volkov@av.abbott.com; Tel: +7- 910-436-34-26) for more information.

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Notes to Editor

About the Crossroads Institute

Providing leadership in interventional medical education since 2000, the Crossroads Institute was the first medical learning institute of its kind established in the world to advance the open exchange of information about cardiac and vascular care in order to help healthcare professionals improve the treatment of cardiac and vascular disease. The Crossroads Institute is a world class medical education facility funded by Abbott Vascular and headquartered in Brussels, Belgium with offices in Tokyo, Japan and Johannesburg, South Africa. For more information about The Crossroads Institute, phone +32-2-714-14-65 or visit: www.crossroads-institute.com.

About Abbott Vascular

Abbott Vascular, a division of Abbott, is one of the world's leading vascular care businesses. Abbott Vascular is uniquely focused on advancing the treatment of vascular disease and improving patient care by combining the latest medical device innovations with world-class pharmaceuticals, investing in research and development, and advancing medicine through training education. Headquartered in Northern California, Abbott Vascular offers a comprehensive portfolio of vessel closure, endovascular and coronary products that are recognized internationally for their safety and effectiveness in treating patients with vascular disease.

About Abbott

Abbott is a global, broad-based health care company devoted to the discovery, development, manufacture and marketing of pharmaceuticals and medical products, including nutritionals, devices and diagnostics. The company employs 65,000 people and markets its products in more than 130 countries.



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The Crossroads Institute is a medical education initiative from Abbott Vascular