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AxoGen Announces Avance® Nerve Graft Recipient Selected to Ride on Donate Life Rose Parade® Float

Parade float will highlight the life-changing power of tissue and organ donation

ALACHUA, Fla., Dec. 06, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- AxoGen, Inc. (NASDAQ: AXGN), a global leader in developing and marketing innovative surgical solutions for damage or discontinuity to peripheral nerves, today announced that Madelyn Nicpon was selected to ride on the 2019 Donate Life Rose Parade® float that will be featured in the annual Tournament of Roses® parade. The parade takes place in Pasadena on New Year's Day.

Madelyn (Madie) was a sophomore in high school when she underwent routine dental surgery to remove her wisdom teeth. Several days later, however, the right side of her tongue remained numb. Madie and her parents soon learned that the persistent numbness in her tongue was the result of damage to her lingual nerve – the nerve that provides sensation to the tongue. The nerve had been damaged during the procedure to remove her wisdom teeth. Madie, an outgoing and athletic honor student was having difficulty speaking and was repeatedly biting her tongue while eating.

Damaged peripheral nerves can be surgically repaired, but the window of time for effective outcomes is limited, so expertise from a nerve specialist must be sought quickly. Fortunately, the Nicpon family found Dr. Vincent Ziccardi, an oral surgeon skilled in microsurgery and nerve repair. Dr. Ziccardi repaired Madie's damaged lingual nerve with Avance® Nerve Graft which allowed her lingual nerve to regenerate, restoring sensation to her tongue. She is back to organizing class activities and playing competitive lacrosse.

Avance® Nerve Graft is an off the shelf processed human nerve allograft intended for the surgical repair of peripheral nerve discontinuities. Nerve damage can result in loss of sensation or movement and reduced quality of life. AxoGen is dedicated to transforming nerve repair by providing innovative solutions to surgeons and their patients.

"If it weren't for Dr. Ziccardi and the generosity of a nerve tissue donor I may be living with the challenges of a partially numb tongue for the rest of my life," said Madie. "I encourage everyone to become a tissue and organ donor and am grateful for the opportunity to share my personal story by participating as a rider on the Donate Life Rose Parade® float." Madie's participation in the parade is sponsored by AxoGen Corporation.

“Nearly a million Americans undergo surgical procedures to repair peripheral nerve damage every year,” said Karen Zaderej, chairman, CEO, and president of AxoGen. “There are many causes of peripheral nerve damage – from accidents, to severe cuts, to damage resulting from surgical procedures. We recognize that our ability to provide Avance® Nerve Graft to patients like Madie is made possible through the gift of donated tissue and the work of organizations such as Donate Life.”

Madie will ride alongside 17 other organ, eye, or tissue recipients, honoring their donors. The Donate Life Rose Parade® float is the centerpiece of a national effort of more than 50 organizations to reach a broad audience with the simple, life-giving message that organ, eye, and tissue donation saves and improves lives.

About Donate Life America

Donate Life America is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit alliance of national organizations and state teams across the United States committed to increasing organ, eye and tissue donation. Donate Life America manages and promotes the national brand for donation, Donate Life, and assists Donate Life State Teams and national partners in facilitating high-performing donor registries; developing and executing effective multi-media donor education programs; and motivating the American public to register now as organ, eye and tissue donors.

About AxoGen

AxoGen (AXGN) is the leading company focused specifically on the science, development and commercialization of technologies for peripheral nerve regeneration and repair. We are passionate about helping to restore peripheral nerve function and quality of life to patients with physical damage or discontinuity to peripheral nerves by providing innovative, clinically proven and economically effective repair solutions for surgeons and health care providers. Peripheral nerves provide the pathways for both motor and sensory signals throughout the body. Every day, people suffer traumatic injuries or undergo surgical procedures that impact the function of their peripheral nerves. Physical damage to a peripheral nerve, or the inability to properly reconnect peripheral nerves, can result in the loss of muscle or organ function, the loss of sensory feeling, or the initiation of pain.

AxoGen's platform for peripheral nerve repair features a comprehensive portfolio of products, including Avance® Nerve Graft, an off-the-shelf processed human nerve allograft for bridging severed peripheral nerves without the comorbidities associated with a second surgical site, AxoGuard® Nerve Connector, a porcine submucosa extracellular matrix (ECM) coaptation aid for tensionless repair of severed peripheral nerves, AxoGuard® Nerve Protector, a porcine submucosa ECM product used to wrap and protect damaged peripheral nerves and reinforce the nerve reconstruction while preventing soft tissue attachments, and Avive® Soft Tissue Membrane, a minimally processed human umbilical cord membrane that may be used as a resorbable soft tissue covering to separate tissue layers and modulate inflammation in the surgical bed. Along with these core surgical products, AxoGen also offers AcroVal® Neurosensory & Motor Testing System and AxoTouch® Two-Point Discriminator. These evaluation and measurement tools assist health care professionals in detecting changes in sensation, assessing return of sensory, grip, and pinch function, evaluating effective treatment interventions, and providing feedback to patients on peripheral nerve function. The AxoGen portfolio of products is available in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and several other European and international countries.

Cautionary Statements Concerning Forward-Looking Statements

This Press Release contains “forward-looking” statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on management's current expectations or predictions of future conditions, events, or results based on various assumptions and management's estimates of trends and economic factors in the markets in which we are active, as well as our business plans. Words such as “expects,” “anticipates,” “intends,” “plans,” “believes,” “seeks,” “estimates,” “projects,” “forecasts,” “continue,” “may,” “should,” “will,” and variations of such words and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements may include, without limitation, statements regarding our assessment on our internal control over financial reporting, our growth, our 2018 and 2019 guidance, product development, product potential, financial performance, sales growth, product adoption, market awareness of our products, data validation, our visibility at and sponsorship of conferences and educational events. The forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, which may cause results to differ materially from those set forth in the statements. Forward-looking statements in this release should be evaluated together with the many uncertainties that affect AxoGen's business and its market, particularly those discussed in the risk factors and cautionary statements in AxoGen's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, and actual results may differ materially from those projected. The forward-looking statements are representative only as of the date they are made and, except as required by law, AxoGen assumes no responsibility to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

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