

For Immediate Release:

Second Sight Announces Successful Retinal Prosthesis Implant

April 30, 2002 -Los Angeles, CA – Second Sight™ announces the successful implantation of a retinal prosthesis into a blind patient under the first of two FDA-approved investigational studies that Second Sight™ is undertaking at the Doheny Retina Institute at the University of Southern California. The four USC surgeons who implanted the device were Mark Humayun, Eugene de Juan, Michael Burnstine and Dennis Maceri. Based on published scientific papers, we believe that this event marks the first implant of a wireless retinal prosthesis that is capable of producing controllable visual perceptions in blind patients. Though this is an important milestone in our research and development plan, it is only a step towards our development of a commercial retinal prosthesis. A device that can be widely distributed to the many patients suffering from outer retinal degenerations is still several years away, but this achievement brings it one significant step closer.

Second Sight™, located in Valencia, California, was founded in 1998 with the goal of creating a retinal prosthesis to provide sight to patients blinded from outer retinal degenerations, such as *Retinitis Pigmentosa* and *Macular Degeneration*. Through dedication and innovation, Second Sight's™ mission is to develop, manufacture and market implantable visual prosthetics to enable blind individuals to overcome their disability and achieve greater independence.

Second Sight™ is currently developing implantable devices that acquire power and data from external electronic devices and electrically stimulate the retina through an array of electrodes. Simple arrays, used in prior short-term experiments, have produced formed vision in patients with Retinitis Pigmentosa. Research conducted by Second Sight™ has shown that more advanced array designs are possible, and that these arrays should improve the quality of the images seen by blind patients using more advanced designs.

Second Sight™ is a privately held company founded and funded by several individuals, including Alfred Mann, Sam Williams, and others. Mr. Mann is also chairman of Mannkind, a biotechnology company and Advanced Bionics, a cochlear implant and neurostimulation company. Mr. Williams is the chairman of Williams International, a manufacturer of jet engines for aircraft and cruise missiles.

The company has also received extensive U.S. federal support for its efforts and is grateful for the forward thinking of the National Institutes of Health/National Eye Institute and the Department of Energy in supporting this work.

For more information, please visit our website at:
<http://www.2-sight.com> or <http://www.retinalprosthesis.com>

Or contact us at pr@2-sight.com