

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CONCENTRIC MEDICAL ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF NEXT GENERATION  
ISCHEMIC STROKE DEVICE IN EUROPE**

**Merci® L5 Retriever is the latest addition to the company's line of clot retrieval devices.**

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA, USA (July 13, 2006 ) --- Concentric Medical announces the CE Mark approval and commercial release of the Merci® L5 Retrieval System in Europe. The Merci® L5 Retrieval System is Concentric's newest design, incorporating a cylindrical helix with attached filaments to secure the clot during the retrieval procedure. In Europe, the Merci Retrieval Systems, including the new L5, are indicated for clot removal in ischemic stroke patients.

In the *Multi* MERCI (Part 1) trial, various Merci retrievers were investigated, including the new Merci L5 Retrieval System. Interim results from this study demonstrated a 69.4% blood flow restoration rate in 111 ischemic stroke patients after the study procedure. Clinical outcomes for moderate to severe stroke patients treated were also improved as demonstrated by 34.3% of patients treated reporting a Modified Rankin Score of  $\leq 2$  (or functional independence) at 90 days. These results were published in June 2006 in the *American Journal of Neuroradiology*, in an article written by Wade Smith, MD, PhD, for the *Multi* MERCI Investigators. Dr. Smith is the Principal Investigator of *Multi* Merci and Associate Professor of Neurology at the University of California, San Francisco.

“We are committed to improving the way in which ischemic stroke patients are treated and continue to pursue efforts on newer generation devices.” said Gary Curtis, President and CEO of Concentric Medical. “This is evidenced by the introduction of the Merci® L5 in Europe.”

An ischemic stroke occurs when a blood vessel in the brain is blocked by a blood clot which can impair brain function and cause severe disability or death. Stroke is the number one leading cause of disability and is the third leading cause of death worldwide, and approximately 85 percent of all strokes are ischemic. The Merci Retriever is a “corkscrew-type” device that is delivered into the brain using standard catheterization techniques. Upon reaching the targeted area, the Merci Retriever is designed to restore blood flow in ischemic stroke patients by engaging, capturing and removing the blood clot.

## **About Concentric Medical**

Located in Mountain View, California, and founded in 1999, Concentric Medical is committed to opening the pathway to new stroke treatments. The flagship product line, Merci<sup>®</sup> Retriever, is indicated for use in removing blood clots from the brain in patients suffering an ischemic stroke. The Merci procedure is currently being performed in over 200 centers worldwide, and Concentric Medical estimates that over 3,000 patients have been treated with the device. More information about Concentric Medical and its products can be found at [www.concentric-medical.com](http://www.concentric-medical.com).

Concentric, Merci and MERCI are trademarks/registered trademarks of Concentric Medical.

### **Media Contacts:**

**Jodie Fam, Marketing**

+1 650 810 1737 office

+1 415 244 9885 mobile

[jfam@concentric-medical.com](mailto:jfam@concentric-medical.com)

### **Sales Contacts:**

**Marc Hofmans, European Manager**

+32 475 310 256 mobile

[mhofmans@concentric-medical.com](mailto:mhofmans@concentric-medical.com)