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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ascent Among Elite Group of Manufacturers Honored for Lowering the Environmental Footprint of Healthcare

PHOENIX, Ariz. – April 6, 2011 – [Ascent](#), a division of Stryker Corporation and a leader in delivering healthcare resource [sustainability](#), has been honored with a Champion for Change Award by [Practice Greenhealth](#). Reserved for a select group of leaders in healthcare sustainability, the award recognizes companies that not only help their customers improve their environmental performance, but also demonstrate significant achievement in ‘greening’ their own organizations.

“The Champion for Change award is a reflection of Ascent’s commitment to healthcare sustainability solutions that protect the quality of patient care and the environment,” said Bob Jarboe, Executive Vice President of Business Development, Practice Greenhealth. “At Ascent, it’s understood that sustainability in healthcare is both environmental and financial. We are proud to honor them for their contributions again this year.”

Ascent has helped hundreds of hospitals reduce their environmental footprint through reprocessing and remanufacturing medical devices that are marketed in North America as “single use” by the original manufacturer and are often needlessly thrown away. In 2010, Ascent’s programs diverted more than 6.6 million pounds of medical waste from local landfills.

In terms of financial sustainability, Ascent’s reprocessing programs helped its hospital partners save hundreds of millions of dollars in 2010. On a per-hospital basis, some saved more than \$600,000. Reprocessing allows hospitals to deploy more of their scarce resources to enhancing patient care through investments such as hiring more nurses or the purchase of much-needed equipment.

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"While we're honored to be recognized for the tremendously positive impact of Ascent's reprocessing programs, we realize that, as an industry, there's much more to be done to lower the environmental footprint of healthcare," said Lars Thording, Senior Director of Marketing and Public Affairs, Ascent. "Hospitals are looking for innovative solutions that advance healthcare sustainability and optimize both environmental and financial resources. We're asking other healthcare industry leaders to join us in a collaborative effort that will advance healthcare sustainability faster than any one of us could do alone. Practice Greenhealth is a key partner in this effort."

Practice Greenhealth is a nonprofit membership organization founded on the principles of positive environmental stewardship and best practices by organizations in the healthcare community.

ABOUT ASCENT: A STRYKER SUSTAINABILITY SOLUTION

Ascent, a division of Stryker Corporation, is the leading provider of reprocessing (cleaning, testing/verifying, packaging and sterilizing) and remanufacturing (disassembling, repairing and manufacturing) services for medical devices as well as comprehensive recycling and redistribution initiatives. Stryker is the only global OEM to offer innovative, cost-effective sustainability solutions, like Ascent's reprocessing and remanufacturing programs, to help meet the demands of its hospital partners. Specifically, Ascent's programs target inefficient practices and reclaim and redirect consumable and financial resources in order to promote healthy and responsible hospitals. Ascent's customers include most of the "Honor Roll" hospitals recognized by *U.S. News & World Report*. For more information about Ascent, visit www.ascenths.com.

ABOUT STRYKER

Stryker is one of the world's leading medical technology companies and is dedicated to helping healthcare professionals perform their jobs more efficiently while enhancing patient care. The Company provides innovative orthopaedic implants as well as state-of-the-art medical and surgical equipment to help people lead more active and more satisfying lives. For more information about Stryker, please visit www.stryker.com.