

**Contacts:**

Dena Reynolds, LifeNet Health  
Office: 800-847-7831  
[dena\\_reynolds@lifenethealth.org](mailto:dena_reynolds@lifenethealth.org)

Jessica M. Salazar, Children's Mercy  
816-346-1346  
[JMSalazar@cmh.edu](mailto:JMSalazar@cmh.edu)

For Immediate Release

## **LifeNet Health and Children's Mercy Hospital Announce First Implant with MatrACELL™ Technology**

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA, September 9, 2009 -- LifeNet Health, a leading allograft bio-implant company, announces the first implant of a CardioGraft™ allograft cardiac patch product with MatrACELL™ decellularization technology. The surgery was performed at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo by [Gary K. Lofland, MD](#), FACS, Section Chief, Cardiovascular Surgery at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo, The Joseph Boon Gregg/Missouri Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cardiac Surgery, Professor of Surgery, UMKC. The initial preclinical testing in large animal models was coordinated by [Richard A. Hopkins, MD](#), Director, Cardiac Surgery Research Laboratories, Chief, Adolescent/Adult Congenital Cardiac Surgery at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo, Professor of Surgery, UMKC.

MatrACELLi Technology is a patented and validated process to render allograft tissue acellular, removing over 99% of the donor genetic material. It is well documented in the surgical literature that the donor cell component of cryopreserved cardiovascular tissue is the source of its three primary failure modes: calcification, stenosis and immunogenicity. MatrACELLi Technology is a methodology that safely removes donor cells from cardiovascular tissues while retaining the native biomechanical strength of the tissue.

Our mission is saving lives and restoring health. Each year approximately 10,000 invasive cardiac procedures are performed on infants less than one year old who are born with complex congenital heart defects. The CardioGraft™ patch with MatrACELL™ technology is indicated for many of those procedures and has the potential to improve clinical outcomes and increase implant durability, thus reducing overall healthcare costs, said Rony Thomas, LifeNet Health CEO and President.

As a pediatric cardiac surgeon, this technology is particularly exciting as it may reduce the number of open heart surgeries many of these patients have to endure over the course of their life, said Dr. Hopkins.

MatrACELL™ is one of several process technology platforms that LifeNet Health has developed to enhance the utility and clinical effectiveness of human allograft tissue. LifeNet Health is currently evaluating other applications that can benefit from this break-through technology including skin, cartilage and other cardiovascular tissues.

LifeNet Health has a long history of unsurpassed safety and quality with more than two million bio-implants distributed, including 20,000 cardiovascular allografts without any disease transmission. All allograft tissue undergoes a multi-step quality assurance review that exceeds the standards set by both the FDA and American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB).

### **About LifeNet Health**

LifeNet Health, a non-profit global leader in regenerative medicine, is the world's largest provider of bio-implants and organs for transplantation whose mission is saving lives and restoring health by advancing the field of tissue engineering. For additional information about LifeNet Health, visit [www.lifenethealth.org](http://www.lifenethealth.org).

### **About Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics**

Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics in Kansas City, Mo. is one of the nation's top pediatric medical centers. Designated as a Magnet hospital for excellence in nursing services, and ranked in 2009 by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of America's Best Children's Hospitals, Children's Mercy provides outstanding pediatric care for children from birth through the age of 18. With a 314-bed facility, Level IIIc neonatal intensive care unit, Level I pediatric trauma center, faculty of 600 pediatricians, and [40 subspecialties](#), it is one of the largest and most comprehensive pediatric medical centers in the country. In addition to a mission of caring for children regardless of their family's ability to pay, Children's Mercy is actively involved in clinical care, pediatric research, and educating the next generation of pediatric subspecialists. More information about Children's Mercy and its research can be found on our Web site at [ChildrensMercy.org](http://ChildrensMercy.org). For breaking news and videos, follow us on [Twitter](#), [You Tube](#) and [Facebook](#).

###