

PRESS RELEASE

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**JULIO C. PALMAZ, M.D., INVENTOR OF THE WORLD'S FIRST CARDIAC STENT,
IS THE 2009 RECIPIENT OF THE PTV SCIENCES STAR OF TEXAS HEALTHCARE
AWARD**

Austin and Houston, Texas – October 1, 2009 – PTV Sciences (“PTV”), a healthcare venture capital and growth equity firm, announced that Julio C. Palmaz, M.D. will be the recipient of the 2009 PTV Sciences Star of Texas Healthcare Award at the Annual PTV Sciences Limited Partner Meeting on November 4, 2009 in Austin, Texas.

Dr. Palmaz is recognized as the inventor of the first commercially successful coronary stent, one of the most important inventions in modern medicine that benefits millions of people worldwide every year. Dr. Palmaz’s balloon expandable stent has been named twice among *IP International Magazine’s* “Ten patents that changed the world.” His early stent research artifacts are part of the medical collection of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and the Texas History Museum in Austin, Texas.

In 1985 he joined efforts with Philip Romano and Richard Schatz to found Expandable Grafts Partnership (EGP) a company that enabled Johnson & Johnson to launch the first coronary stent, a device approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1991 to treat balloon angioplasty restenosis. This device became industry standard and revolutionized medical care.

Dr. Palmaz currently holds the Ashbel Smith Professorship as a tenured Professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio (UTHSCSA). He is the founder of Palmaz Scientific, an R&D company devoted to advanced device concepts, originally founded in 1999 under the name of Advanced Bio Prosthetic Surfaces (ABPS). He also founded Palmaz Vineyards in 1997, an advanced winemaking operation based on underground gravity-flow processing and the largest underground winemaking facility in the U.S.

Dr. Palmaz began his professional career in 1974 at San Martin University Hospital, Argentina, and was Chief of Special Procedures at Martinez Veterans Administration Hospital in 1981. In 1983, Dr. Palmaz joined the UTHSCSA Department of Radiology as Chief of Angiography and Special Procedures until 1999 and as Chief of Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology Research until 2005.

Dr. Palmaz has 40 issued patents, is the author of 29 books and book chapters, and has authored 106 peer-reviewed publications. He is a 2007 gold medalist of the Society of Interventional Radiology, 2006 inductee of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, a 2005 Distinguished Scientist of the American Heart Association, and fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering.

In January 2003 Dr. Palmaz received the Presidential Distinguished Scholar Award from the University of Texas San Antonio. Additionally, he has received honorary titles and awards from the American Heart Association, the International Society of Endovascular Surgery, the Society of Interventional Radiology, the German Roentgen Society, The Rotterdam Thoraxcenter in Holland, the Washington Cardiovascular Research Foundation, the Society of Cardiac Angiography, the Texas Heart Institute, the Texas Bar Association, the Miami Cardiac and Vascular Institute, the Cardiovascular Institute of the South, and the Surfaces in Biomaterials Foundation.

According to Rick Anderson, Managing Director of PTV, “we are proud to recognize the work of Dr. Palmaz and the impact he has made on human healthcare. His work has changed the lives of millions of patients from all over the world who suffer from vascular disease.”

About PTV Sciences

PTV Sciences (www.ptvsciences.com), founded in 2003, is a healthcare venture capital and growth equity firm focused on enabling healthcare entrepreneurs and global innovation. PTV Sciences is a highly collaborative team of 22 professionals, deeply experienced as investors and operators of life science companies. PTV Sciences focuses on enabling industry leading companies and investing in extraordinary people in the healthcare and life sciences sector, including medical devices, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and diagnostics. PTV Sciences has offices in Austin and Houston, Texas.