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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ASCENT NAMED A CHAMPION FOR CHANGE FOR THIRD YEAR RUNNING**

*Practice Greenhealth recognizes reprocessing leader for driving sustainability initiatives that lower the environmental footprint of healthcare*

**PHOENIX, Ariz. – June 14, 2010** – Ascent, a leader in delivering healthcare resource sustainability, has been honored with a Champion for Change Award by Practice Greenhealth for the third year in a row. 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 achieve accomplishments in “greening” their own organizations.

“The Champion for Change award is a reflection of Ascent’s commitment to providing the healthcare industry with innovative resources that protect the quality of patient care while helping to preserve the environment,” said Bob Jarboe, executive director of Practice Greenhealth. “Ascent is truly a leader in healthcare sustainability, and it’s exciting to watch the company as it sets an example for others in the industry.”

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. Ascent’s programs divert more than 5.3 million pounds of medical waste from local landfills each year. That’s equivalent to 1 pound of waste every six seconds.

Ascent also provides alternatives for deferring medical waste. Unused medical devices that are no longer needed by hospitals are collected, re-sterilized and, if suitable, donated to relief organizations that provide medical care for impoverished populations around the world. Ascent donates these devices to organizations like Project C.U.R.E. and Esperanca that help under-equipped medical communities around the world improve the value of care.

“At Ascent, we practice a broad definition of healthcare sustainability,” said Rick Ferreira, president of Ascent. “We help our hospital partners achieve both environmental and financial sustainability by looking closely at how scarce resources are used. By using resources more effectively, critical assets are freed to improve the quality of care.”

In terms of financial sustainability, Ascent’s reprocessing programs helped its hospital partners save hundreds of millions of dollars in 2009. 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.

In addition to helping customers lower their environmental footprint, Ascent is committed to “greening” its own business operations. The company’s sustainability initiatives include an energy management and conservation system, a waste management plan, an internal recycling program that collected more than 9,500 pounds of paper and 250 pounds of aluminum in 2009 and a “green team” that oversees Ascent’s sustainability goals.

Ascent is also partnering with Practice Greenhealth on a new initiative called “Greening the OR” that brings together industry leaders to develop strategies, rating systems and best practices for driving cost savings and lowering the environmental footprint of operating rooms – which currently generate between 20 and 30 percent of hospital waste. One of the initiative’s outcomes will be a “best practices guidance document” for the industry.

#### **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](http://www.ascenths.com).

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