

**BOSTON SCIENTIFIC TO HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF  
HEART DISEASE RISK FACTORS FOR FLORIDIANS**

*'Close the Gap' Campaign to Visit Jacksonville Suns Home Game on Friday, August 21st*

Natick, MA (August 14, 2009) -- Boston Scientific (NYSE: BSX) today announced it will visit the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville, home of the Jacksonville Suns, to raise awareness of heart disease risk factors for Floridians. *Close the Gap*, a national initiative aimed at addressing disparities in cardiovascular care for the underserved patient populations of women, black Americans and Latino Americans, will staff an educational booth on the topic at the Jacksonville Suns v Carolina Mud Cats Minor League Baseball game on Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.

"Heart disease is the number one cause of death in Florida, accounting for nearly 30 percent of all deaths in the state," said Dr. Majdi Ashchi, a Jacksonville area cardiologist. "We are helping people understand the risk factors for heart disease, and encouraging them to talk with a physician to develop a plan to lower their overall risk."

Heart disease claims nearly 50,000 lives each year in the state of Florida. According to recent Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey results, adults in Florida reported the following risk factors for heart disease: 28% have high blood pressure, 40% have high cholesterol, 21% are current smokers, 59% are overweight or obese, and 25% reported no exercise in the prior 30 days.

"We're proud to assist in the *Close the Gap* initiative to raise awareness of heart disease risk factors," said Jacksonville Suns President & General Manager Peter Bragan Jr. "We support the effort, and urge everyone to learn more about how they can protect themselves and their loved ones from developing this condition."

A key focus of the *Close the Gap* campaign is to raise awareness of sudden cardiac arrest as a leading cause of death among young athletes. Statistics reveal that in the United States, a young competitive athlete experiences sudden cardiac arrest every three or four days. The average age of those who die is 17.5 years, ninety percent of them are male, and more than half are black.

*Close the Gap* is led by a steering committee of leading physicians from across the country. In addition to the Jacksonville Suns, other organizations supporting efforts to address disparities in cardiovascular care and working actively with the *Close the Gap* initiative include WomenHeart, Black Coaches and Administrators (BCA), the Association of Black Cardiologists, the Athlete's Heartbeat and the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association. Several National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) member schools also are supporting *Close the Gap* efforts.

“Despite a similar prevalence, women and people of color are treated at a lesser rate for heart disease than Caucasian men,” said *Close the Gap* steering committee member Dr. Christopher Leggett, an Atlanta area cardiologist. “With *Close the Gap*, we are helping everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity or gender, have access to the highest quality cardiovascular care.”

*Close the Gap* has plans to conduct outreach at several venues during 2009, including information booths at additional Minor League Baseball games. For further information on the *Close the Gap* campaign and updates on outreach venues as they become available, please visit [www.heart-health-disparities.org](http://www.heart-health-disparities.org) or [www.bostonscientific.com/closethegap](http://www.bostonscientific.com/closethegap).

Media interviews can be arranged upon request. Interested parties should contact Rachel Lonsdale at 952-346-6420.

Boston Scientific is a worldwide developer, manufacturer and marketer of medical devices whose products are used in a broad range of interventional medical specialties. For more information, please visit [www.bostonscientific.com](http://www.bostonscientific.com).

*Statistics cited in this release are taken from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Heart Rhythm Society, the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association, the National Center on Health Statistics, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation.*

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