

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ABIOCOR HEART IMPLANTED AT JEWISH HOSPITAL
BY UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE SURGEONS**

(LOUISVILLE) – University of Louisville surgeons Laman Gray, M.D., and Rob Dowling, M.D., today confirmed the implantation of an AbioCor™ Implantable Replacement Heart at Jewish Hospital on January 7, 2003. The procedure lasted about six hours and the patient is currently in critical but stable condition. At the request of the patient's family, the patient's name and other details are not being released.

Jewish Hospital officials and the physicians who performed the procedure will not be available for further comment at this time. Updates will be provided as significant changes in the patient's condition occur and at the family's request.

The experimental procedure is the result of some 20 years of product research and development by ABIOMED, Inc., of Danvers, Mass. Jewish Hospital and University of Louisville surgeons Gray and Dowling began working with the company about four years ago. During the years leading up to the human implants, the device was validated in FDA approved animal trials. A team of nurses, perfusionists, physician assistants, anesthesiologists and other support staff also worked in the development of the device to learn how to care for patients.

Robert Tools, the world's first AbioCor patient, underwent surgery at Jewish Hospital July 2, 2001. He survived for 151 days. Tom Christerson became the second patient in the world to receive AbioCor heart in a September 13, 2001, surgery at Jewish Hospital. He returned home April 16, 2002, and 16 months following surgery continues to enjoy a good quality of life at his home. A third Jewish Hospital patient died shortly after surgery in April 2002.

Patients who are eligible to receive an AbioCor device have a high probability of dying within 30 days without the device. They are not candidates for other treatments, such as a heart transplants.