

For more information:

David Fanucchi

The Point Group

dfanucchi@thepointgroup.com

713-622-5290

**St. Luke’s Medical Center Treats Emphysema Patients
with RENEW Lung Volume Reduction Coil**

***SLMC becomes first hospital in Texas to utilize the PneumRx® RePneu® LVR Coil device***

**HOUSTON** (December 9, 2013) – Patients suffering from emphysema now have access to a new treatment as part of an FDA-approved study currently underway at [St. Luke’s Medical Center](http://www.stlukeshouston.com), where the first patient treated with the PneumRx® RePneu® Lung Volume Reduction Coil (RePneu LVRC®) System has experienced favorable results.

Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine Consultants, PLLC physicians Timothy A. Connolly, M.D. (Principal Investigator), and Co-Investigators Lisa Kopas, M.D. and J. Fernando Santacruz, M.D., recently opened an FDA-approved, multi-center study to employ an endoscopic approach to lung volume reduction via the implantation of multiple memory shape metal nitinol coils. The study is sponsored by PneumRx (Mountain View, CA).

The Coil is made of nitinol (metal) and is placed in the lung airways. It works by squeezing the unhealthiest portions of the lung so that the remaining, healthier parts can expand to function more efficiently. There has already been a significant amount of experience utilizing this technology in multiple European studies with more than 2,330 Coils implanted thus far.

“The results are very promising, with the potential for improvement in lung function tests, quality of life scores, and functional improvement,” said Dr. Connolly. “To date, complications are less than lung volume reduction surgery (LVRS), making this intervention more attractive and available to a broader range of patients who suffer from emphysema.”

The study will enroll up to 315 patients at approximately 30 sites, including St. Luke’s Medical Center. Patients in the study will be assigned to one of two groups: the control group or the LVRC treatment group. Prior to being considered for inclusion in the study, potential patients need to have completed a formal pulmonary rehabilitation program within the prior six months. If a pulmonary rehab program was completed more than six months ago, maintenance rehab work, such as walking at home daily, must be demonstrated.

To learn more about this trial, please call 1-800-587-2003. For more information regarding this novel technology, please log on to [www.pneumrx.com/usa](http://www.pneumrx.com/usa).

# # #

**About St. Luke’s Health System**

*St. Luke’s Health System (*[*stlukestexas.com*](http://www.stlukestexas.com)*) includes: St. Luke’s Medical Center in the Texas Medical Center; St. Luke’s The Woodlands Hospital; St. Luke’s Sugar Land Hospital; St. Luke’s Lakeside Hospital; St. Luke’s Patients Medical Center; and St. Luke’s Hospital at The Vintage. St. Luke’s is home to the Texas Heart® Institute, which was founded in 1962 by Denton A. Cooley, MD.  Affiliated with several nursing schools and three medical schools, St. Luke’s Medical Center in the Texas Medical Center was the first hospital in Texas named a Magnet Hospital for Nursing Excellence, receiving the award three times.  St. Luke’s is a member of Catholic Health Initiatives. Catholic Health Initiatives℠ (CHI) is a national nonprofit health system headquartered in Englewood, Colo. The faith-based system operates in 18 states and includes 86 hospitals; 40 long-term care, assisted- and residential-living facilities; two academic medical centers; two community health-services organizations; two accredited nursing colleges; and home health agencies. Currently, CHI ranks as the nation’s third-largest faith-based health system, with annual operating revenues of more than $12 billion and approximately 85,500 employees. In fiscal year 2012, CHI provided more than $715 million in charity care and community benefit, including services for the poor, free clinics, education and research.*

**About PneumRx Inc.**

*PneumRx, Inc. is a Mountain View, CA based medical device start-up focused on developing minimally-invasive solutions for unmet medical needs in pulmonary medicine. The flagship product, the RePneu® Lung Volume Reduction Coil, is designed to reduce lung volume and restore elastic recoil to improve lung function, exercise capacity, and quality of life for patients with emphysema. Made from shape-memory Nitinol, the RePneu Coil compresses hyperinflated tissue and tethers small airways to prevent airway collapse without blocking or destroying lung parenchyma, a key advantage over other endoscopic techniques. The RePneu LVRC is limited to investigational use in the U.S.A. Read more at* [*www.pneumrx.com*](http://www.pneumrx.com)*.*