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**INVENTORS OF LANDMARK TREATMENT
FOR PULMONARY HYPERTENSION RECEIVE
NATIONAL INVENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Intellectual Property Owners Association Honors Creators of “Blue Baby” Treatment

WASHINGTON – Parents of “blue babies” suffering from hypoxic respiratory failure can breathe easier due to the work of two physicians who today received the 30th Annual *National Inventor of the Year Award*. The award is the nation’s most prestigious award for recent breakthrough inventions and is given annually by the Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO).

Dr. Warren M. Zapol, Chief of Anesthesia and Critical Care at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), and Dr. Claes Frostell, who received postdoctoral training at MGH and is currently Head of Karolinska Institutet Danderyd Hospital in Sweden, share the award for their invention of a groundbreaking treatment for patients suffering from respiratory failure associated with pulmonary hypertension. The invention is a method and device for safely delivering nitric oxide to the lungs of patients in the form of an inhaled gas. The treatment has been FDA-approved for the treatment of hypoxic respiratory failure in infants, which affects approximately 30,000 babies each year.

“The inventors we honor today deserve the Inventor of the Year Award for their creative genius. Their contribution to the study and understanding of treating respiratory failure is extraordinary,” said Herbert C. Wamsley, Executive Director of IPO. “Drs. Zapol and Frostell have done extraordinary work and have certainly earned our recognition and praise.”

Based on data from nine years of clinical trials, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved INOmax (nitric oxide) as a treatment for infants suffering from hypoxic respiratory failure in December 1999. It is the first gaseous pharmaceutical ever to be approved. Researchers, including Drs. Zapol and Frostell, are currently studying other medical conditions for which nitric oxide might be an effective treatment.

One of the award recipients, Dr. Warren Zapol, stated, “As a physician scientist there is no greater thrill than bringing your invention from the laboratory to the bedside and watching it save lives. It makes the long years of study and testing extraordinarily worthwhile.”

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Founded in 1972, IPO is a national trade association for owners of patents, trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets in all industries and fields of technology. IPO was established to broaden public understanding of intellectual property rights. Members include large and small businesses, universities, intellectual property attorneys, and independent inventors and authors. To be eligible for the Inventor of the Year Award, an invention must have been patented or first marketed in the past four years. Past winners include: Paul Maccready for the "Gossamer Condor," a human-powered flying device, Robert Jarvik for the Jarvik Seven Artificial Heart, James L. Fergason for liquid crystal displays, and Amar G. Bose for a folded waveguide loudspeaker system.