FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA MEDICAL COLLEGE REPORTS CEREBRAL OXYGEN DESATURATIONS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH POSTOPERATIVE COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION IN ELDERLY PATIENTS, REPORTS SOMANETICS

TROY, Mich. -- October 15, 2002 -- Somanetics Corporation (Nasdaq: SMTS) announced that a prospective study of 399 adult patients indicates cerebral oxygen desaturations are associated with postoperative cognitive dysfunction (POCD) in elderly patients following major general, non-cardiac surgery.

In the study, patients completed neurocognitive testing before and after their surgeries. Elderly patients (defined as patients age 60 and over in this study) with POCD three months after surgery had a significantly increased incidence of cerebral desaturations during surgery, as monitored with Somanetics’ INVOS® Cerebral Oximeter.

In total, 69 percent of the elderly patients exhibited POCD one week after their surgery, and 24 percent still had POCD three months later. Of the elderly patients with POCD, 62 percent suffered desaturations during their surgery, compared to only 8 percent of elderly patients without POCD. On average, the patients who had POCD stayed in the hospital one day longer than patients without POCD (5.3 days versus 4.3 days).

The study was performed by Terri G. Monk, M.D., professor of anesthesiology in the department of anesthesiology at the University of Florida Medical College in Gainesville. The study results were presented today at the American Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting in Orlando.

“The INVOS Cerebral Oximeter is a simple-to-use instrument that detects changes in regional cerebral blood oxygenation during surgery,” said Dr. Monk. “This study suggests that low brain blood oxygen levels during the surgery may be a primary cause of POCD,” said Dr. Monk.

The INVOS Cerebral Oximeter, developed and marketed by Somanetics Corporation, is the only patient monitoring system commercially available in the U.S. that noninvasively and continuously monitors changes in the regional oxygen saturation of the blood in the brain. It is available for use on adult and pediatric patients.

The Cerebral Oximeter provides information by noninvasively transmitting and detecting visible and near-infrared light through SomaSensors®, disposable sensors that are placed on both sides of a patient’s forehead.
CEREBRAL OXYGEN DESATURATIONS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH POSTOPERATIVE COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION IN ELDERLY PATIENTS ACCORDING TO STUDY RESULTS REPORTED BY SOMANETICS / 2

The market potential for the INVOS Cerebral Oximeter in major general surgery is estimated to approach $1 billion annually worldwide.

“The results of this correlative study make us optimistic that the INVOS System can be demonstrated to improve outcomes in elderly patients undergoing major general surgery, a market at least ten times the size of our current focus in cardiac surgery,” said Bruce Barrett, president and chief executive officer of Somanetics. “The next step will be to perform intervention outcome studies to evaluate this hypothesis.”

Use of Somanetics’ patient monitoring system can help medical professionals monitor changes in regional brain blood oxygen saturation, allowing them to take corrective action. Such action can potentially prevent or reduce neurological injuries related to surgery and in other critical care situations and reduce the associated cost of care.

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About Somanetics Corporation

Somanetics Corporation is a medical device company that develops and markets two medical devices. The INVOS Cerebral Oximeter is a patient monitoring system that monitors changes in the blood oxygen level in the brain, allowing medical professionals to take action to prevent neurological injury related to surgery. The CorRestore™ System is used in cardiac repair and reconstruction, including Surgical Ventricular Restoration (SVR), a surgical treatment of certain types of severe congestive heart failure. Somanetics’ web site address is www.somanetics.com.