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### **Automated Donor Screening Awarded 3 Year Expansion by NHLBI**

(October 4, 2005) The National Heart Lung & Blood Institute awarded Talisman Limited a 3-year Small Business Innovation Research Competing Continuation grant to complete development and regulatory compliance on its "Paperless Quality Donor System (tm, QDS) with Decision Making" (HL072635). QDS utilizes FDA 510(k) cleared state-of-the-art audio-visual touch screen computer assisted self-interviewing (AVT-CASI) technology and currently consists of donor and staff review modules. The system and its advantages over others is most completely described in a February 2005 article in Transfusion based on 2001 & 2002 performance at the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center led by Louis M. Katz, MD.

Research findings measured by anonymous donor and staff surveys showed donors preferred QDS over the predecessor system for privacy, time satisfaction, truthfulness, clarity and likelihood of donating again by ratios of 6.7 to 1 to 15.9 to 1. Staff had similar reactions as to times involved, donor honesty, confidentiality, accuracy, error reduction and personal satisfaction. While donor time increased by 4 minutes, staff time decreased by 5 minutes per interview. Reports of high-risk behavior among first time donors increased 9-fold while errors and omissions fell by over 60%.

Research and development of QDS continues with present applications at: MVRBC, Louis M. Katz, MD, VP and co-investigator; Lifeline/West Tennessee RBC, Joseph V. Schifano CEO; Mid-South RBC, Edward P. Scott, MD, CEO; LifeShare Blood Centers, Margaret E. Wallace CEO; and the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center with QDS work led by James P. AuBuchon, MD. The two Tennessee sites have been 100% (all mobile and fixed sites) QDS interviewing for over a year and all centers are expected to be 100% QDS interviewing before year end 2005. Research results to date have corroborated the MVRBC study findings and extended them. Research results comparing donor and staff outcomes with QDS usage of the old and new AABB Uniform Donor History Questionnaire and from testing QDS's Internet donor (iQDS) module will be presented at this month's AABB meetings.

QDS is 100% security protected web technology, updated to the new 2004 UDHQ complete with User Brochure decision flow charts and other user aids, is available in English and Spanish, runs in standalone and network modes, is cleared for electronic data transfer across state lines and to other computing systems, installs after an FDA 30 day notice, requires only 2 to 3 hours of staff training and none for donors, and can be updated for new FDA questions in less than one week. Over 450,000 prospective donations have been screened by QDS to date. Development is now underway to add vital signs, phlebotomy and survey research modules, as well as iQDS, and features such as electronic signature capture, paperless operation, decision aids and decision making.

Talisman Limited specializes in development of software systems that automate interviewing and thereby reduce or eliminate human errors in healthcare operations. Over the last 10 years the company has pioneered the use of automated donor health history screening for blood centers, with much of its recent product development and scientific research funded by SBIR grants from NHLBI. Founded in 1982, Talisman is based in Vienna, VA, and its products are in operation at the 5 blood centers noted above. Additional information is available at [www.talismanlimited.com](http://www.talismanlimited.com).