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**TODAY'S NEWS STORIES**

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**New President Appointed at Gerber Coburn**

SOUTH WINDSOR, Conn.--Gerber Scientific [NYSE: GRB] has appointed Rodney Larson, an executive with management experience in sales, marketing and engineering, as president of its Gerber Coburn division. He replaces Clement Patry who has been named executive director of international sales for Gerber Coburn.

Prior to joining Gerber, Larson was vice president of Key Technology, a provider of process automation systems where he led sales, marketing and customer service activities. He began his career with engineering roles at Dow Chemical and Rogers Corporation. Subsequently, he spent 11 years with FMC Corporation where he held various management roles, including president of Frigoscandia Equipment.

"We're thrilled to have Rod Larson join the Gerber Coburn organization. Rod inherits an extremely talented and experienced management team that under his direction will be responsible for growing the business by creating worldwide market opportunities, continuing aggressive new product development plans and enhancing customer relationships," said Marc Giles, CEO of Gerber Scientific.

Giles noted that Patry served as president of Gerber Coburn during a significant transition period in the organization. "We thank Clement for assuming this transitional role while the company searched for a permanent replacement and look forward to his leadership in strengthening our global position. Clement will be the catalyst for expanding our business in Europe and Asia and driving the organization towards significant growth."

**Bender Re-elected Chairman of The Cooper Companies**

NEW YORK--At its annual stockholders meeting here this week, A. Thomas Bender, president and chief executive officer of CooperVision parent The Cooper Companies (NYSE: COO), was re-elected as the company's chairman of the board.

Bender has been Cooper's chairman since July 2002, and president/CEO since May 1995.

Re-elected as vice chairman and lead director was Allan Rubenstein, MD, chief executive officer of NexGenix Pharmaceuticals and a member of the faculty of the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and the Mt. Sinai Neurofibromatosis Research and Treatment Center. Rubenstein served as Cooper's chairman from July 1994 until July 2002, at which time Bender took over as chairman and Rubenstein became vice chairman and lead director.

**Transitions Optical Announces Worldwide Consumer Sweepstakes Program**

TAMPA, Fla.--Transitions Optical, Inc. is launching the Transitions Trusted Worldwide Program, which includes a sweepstakes where consumers can enter to win a trip anywhere in the world.

Designed to build upon its strong brand recognition and reputation for photochromic lenses, the Trusted Worldwide Program reinforces Transitions' position in the optical industry and its ongoing commitment to eye health, according to Rick Elias, president, Transitions Optical.

The cornerstone of the Trusted Worldwide Program is a new Certificate of Authenticity, which will be distributed with every pair of Transitions Lenses. This certificate demonstrates Transitions' pledge to provide high quality products that also provide comfort, convenience and 100 percent UV protection.

To participate in the sweepstakes and earn a chance to win a trip anywhere in the world as well as other monthly prizes, consumers must follow directions included with the certificate to register their lenses or log onto <http://www.transitions.com/trustedworldwide>. Each prize won by a consumer will be matched and awarded to the ECP who dispensed his or her lenses.

"It is our responsibility as ambassadors of healthy sight to continually educate consumers on the benefits of Transitions," said Elias. "With Transitions Lenses, you can relax knowing your eyes are protected all day, every day."

### **J&J Vision Care Institute Opens First Facility in Europe**

PRAGUE--The Vision Care Institute of Johnson & Johnson (NYSE: JNJ) recently opened its first facility in Europe here in the Czech Republic. The new facility will offer eyecare specialists throughout Europe an opportunity to learn of new developments in the field under the leadership of top contact lens specialists, according to J&J.

The first course to be taught is a three-day program emphasizing the fitting of disposable CLs. Besides clinical training, participants also concentrate on communication skills; teaching is provided in the national language of each individual group of participants.

"With this, our fourth facility, The Vision Care Institute continues to increase its global commitment to eyecare professionals by providing them with the skills necessary to meet patient needs and enhance patient satisfaction through innovative education," said Philip Keefer, global president of The Vision Care Institute of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care. Institute facilities are also located in Jacksonville, Fla.; Seoul, Korea; and Taipei, Taiwan. In addition, the curricula are offered through clinics in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

### **Eyefinity, AltaPoint Data Systems Partner for Online Practice Management**

RANCHO CORDOVA, Calif.--Internet portal Eyefinity has signed an agreement with AltaPoint Data Systems to integrate Eyefinity's Web-based services with AltaPoint's Vision practice-management software, so AltaPoint users will be able to access many of Eyefinity's online tools and services.

Steve Baker, Eyefinity's vice president of technology, said that with the two companies working together, "practices will be able to streamline a variety of administrative procedures which benefits everyone, including the doctors, their staff and, of course, most importantly, their customers."

According to Douglas Lyman, chief executive officer and president of AltaPoint, "We believe this new accessibility will benefit our eyecare providers greatly in terms of administrative accuracy, claim reliability and ease of information exchange."

### **Barry Optical Laboratory's Founder, Owner Herman Baraban Dies at 87**

FARMINGDALE, N.Y.--Herman (Hy) Baraban, founder and owner of Barry Optical Laboratory, passed away on March 2 after a five-year battle with cancer. He was 87.

Baraban founded Barry Optical Laboratory 60 years ago. Prior to opening his business, he was active in the military, serving as a sergeant in a post overseas during World War II. He is also remembered as an active traveler and sailor who enjoyed traveling with his family.

Baraban is survived by his wife Beverly, his son Jeffrey, his daughter Sherry and five grandchildren.

Barry Optical Laboratory will continue to run under the direction of Baraban's family.

### **Show Organizers, Exhibitors Put Finishing Touches on Vision Expo East**

NEW YORK--With just a week to go before the start of Vision Expo East, show organizers and exhibitors are putting the finishing touches on programs, panels and exhibits in anticipation of the 20th gathering of the optical community here at the Javits Convention Center on Thursday, March 30.

As always, Expo promises to be chock-full of special events and programs designed to make attendance not only educational and valuable, but also enjoyable. This year is no exception, particularly as 2006 marks the 20th anniversary of the East Coast event.

In honor of the special occasion, the entire ophthalmic community has the chance to register for the event and win one of hundreds of valuable prizes, ranging from free CE, free hotel nights during the event, restaurant gift certificates at leading New York restaurants, car service, tickets for popular Broadway shows, shopping sprees in the Exhibit Hall, iPod Nanos, and roundtrip airline tickets. Winners may redeem their prize at the show from March 31 to April 2 at the 20th Anniversary Prize Center in the exhibit hall in Booth #3578.

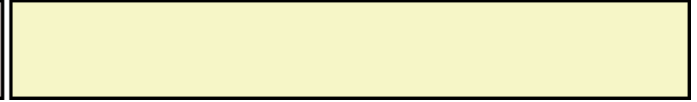
Registrants who didn't win at the time of registration will have a second chance to win. Registrants' badge numbers are automatically entered for a chance to win one of three grand prize shopping sprees. Drawings will be held in the 20th Anniversary Prize Center (Booth #3578) at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1; and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 2.

Friday's drawing will be for a \$10,000 exhibit hall shopping spree. The Saturday and Sunday drawings will each produce a \$5,000 exhibit hall shopping spree winner, for a grand total of \$20,000 in shopping sprees. Attendees may visit the 20th Anniversary Prize Center to see if they have won.

Be sure to attend the Grand Opening Ceremony, which kicks off the show on Friday, March 31 at 9 a.m. in the Crystal Palace of the Javits Convention Center. The ceremony will include a champagne toast, opening remarks, and a ribbon cutting at each entrance to the exhibit hall floor.

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### **Aearo Sets Price for Tender Offer for Notes**

INDIANAPOLIS--Aearo has set the price for its previously announced tender offer and consent solicitation for its outstanding \$175 million in notes due 2012. The total consideration for holders who validly tendered notes and delivered consents by the March 9 expiration of the consent solicitation is \$1,095.15 per \$1,000 principal amount of notes; the total consideration includes a consent payment of \$30 per \$1,000 principal amount of notes.

As of March 21, 100 percent of the outstanding aggregate principal amount of the notes had been tendered.

The tender offer and consent solicitation officially expires on March 24, unless terminated or extended.

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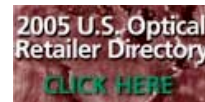
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