Hanger Announces Appointment of President and Chief Operating Officer

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BETHESDA, MARYLAND, January 10, 2002.

Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc. (NYSE:HGR) is pleased to announce that Thomas F. Kirk has been named President and Chief Operating Officer. In this role he will have responsibility for all of the Corporation's operating units, divisions, and partially or wholly-owned subsidiaries, and corporate staff units such as: information technology, human resources, materials management and purchasing, real estate, legal, regulatory, compliance, and strategic planning/corporate development. In addition, Mr. Kirk has been appointed as a consultant to the Board of Directors and will participate fully in all Board deliberations pending his nomination and election to the Board.
Mr. Kirk brings 35 years of domestic and international operating, finance, and business development experience to his this position. Most recently, Mr. Kirk was a principal with Jay Alix & Associates working at Hanger and was serving as the Chief Restructuring Officer leading the design and implementation of the Company's reengineering effort. While at Jay Alix he also led assignments in turnarounds and crisis management for companies in various industries, including health care.

Prior to this, he was Vice President, Planning, Development and Quality for FPL Group, Inc., Vice President and CFO for Quaker Chemical Corporation, and Senior Vice President and CFO at Rhone-Poulenc Inc., in Europe and the US. In each of these positions he led a variety of performance improvement and growth projects that had a profound impact on these organizations.

Ivan R Sabel, Chairman and CEO stated, "Tom's acceptance of this leadership position provides tremendous continuity to our ongoing reengineering process. Also, I am excited that his background in growing profitable business opportunities along with his focus on profit improvement will provide great benefit to our company."

Tom holds a Ph.D. in strategic planning/marketing, and an MBA in finance, from the University of Pittsburgh. He also holds a BS in mechanical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. He is a registered professional engineer and a member of the Financial Executives Institute.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, Hanger is a national public company specializing in patient-care services for orthotics and prosthetics ("O&P"). The Company now provides O&P services in 594 patient-care centers located in 45 states including the District of Columbia and is the largest distributor of O&P supplies and components in the country. Hanger also is engaged in the manufacture and distribution of components and finished patient-care products to the O&P industry, and through its OPNET program, provides O&P services to over 1,000 managed care programs.

Certain statements included in this press release are forward looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Please refer to the Company's SEC filings for factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the Company's expectations