Colombian students graduate from Hanger's Newington Certificate Program for Prosthetics

May 16, 2011

Newington, Conn., May 16, 2011 – On Friday, May 13th, Colombian students Miguel Angel Gutierrez and Sebastian Ramirez graduated from Hanger's Newington Certificate Program for Prosthetics. As part of a humanitarian effort by Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. and Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc. to help the people of Colombia, Gutierrez and Ramirez completed an intensive nine-month course and internship which prepared them as qualified clinicians trained in patient assessment, prosthetics fitting, and socket / limb fabrication. Both are scheduled to return home to Colombia on May 25th where they will care for amputees at the Central Military Hospital Prosthetics Laboratory.



From left to right:
Representatives from Sikorsky
Elot Gazabon and James Corcoran;
Colombian students Miguel Guterrez
and Sebastian Ramirez;
and Hanger's New England Market
Leader Dennis Huysman.

The Newington training program Gutierrez and Ramirez participated in is the result of a partnership between Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc. (NYSE:HGR) and Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, a subsidiary of United Technologies Corp. (NYSE:UTX) to improve the provision of prosthetic care to amputees in Colombia. Due to decades of conflict, Colombia has experienced a large number of landmine victims, and with more than 7,700 landmine survivors registered since 2002, the need for accessible prosthetic care is high. The collaboration includes two initiatives – the clinical education and training of Colombians interested in becoming prosthetists and technicians, and the implementation of a comprehensive in-country clinic to help alleviate the backlog of amputees needing prosthetic intervention. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/HangerSikorskyPartnership. New students from Colombia are expected to begin the same program in August 2011.

About Sikorsky – Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., based in Stratford, Conn., is a world leader in helicopter design, manufacture and service. United Technologies Corp., based in Hartford, Conn., provides a broad range of high technology products and support services to the aerospace and building systems industries worldwide.

About Hanger – With 680+ patient care centers in 45 states and the District of Columbia, Hanger Orthopedic Group is the world's premier provider of orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) patient care. By enhancing human physical capabilities, Hanger helps those with limb loss, paralysis, and debilitating orthopedic anomalies become productive members of society after a devastating injury or illness. The goal of Hanger's patient care division is providing personal independence, increased mobility and restored functionality. Additionally, Hanger has businesses in distribution, network management, therapeutic solutions, and device development and commercialization. For more information, visit www.hanger.com.

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