

## ValveXchange signs option agreement for Dr. Guiraudon's Universal Cardiac Introducer (GUCI).

**May 15, 2009. Denver** – ValveXchange Inc. is pleased to announce that it has signed an option agreement with Dr. Gerard Guiraudon to license his Universal Cardiac Introducer technology. Unlike rigid trocars, the Guiraudon Universal Cardiac Introducer (GUCI) is a flexible, collapsible system that allows multiple tools to work side-by-side inside the ventricular cavity under 3-D ultrasound guidance. This creates the potential of MIS intracardiac beating heart surgery for the repair, implantation and replacement of cardiac valves, and for a host of other cardiac conditions. Early animal tests working with Dr. Guiraudon suggest that this technique is practical and may be adaptable for routine use for intracardiac surgery.



Dr. Gerard Guiraudon had a long and successful career in cardiac surgery because of a rare combination of [pioneer](#) spirit, creative thinking to problems, [dedication](#) to science and a true passion for the field. At the beginning of his career, Dr. Guiraudon contributed to the understanding of arrhythmia mechanisms, documented the concept of arrhythmogenic substrate and described new surgical approaches for every cardiac arrhythmia. Dr. Guiraudon was the first to perform a wide range of procedures: (i) First guided surgery for the mapping of ventricular tachycardia after myocardial infarction in 1975 or associated with cardiomyopathy in 1973. (ii) Description of the right ventricular disconnection for arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia in 1981, a disease that he was the first to identify in the operating room in 1973. (iii) First operation for atrial flutter in 1985 and atrial fibrillation (Corridor operation) in 1986 paved the way to the current development of surgery for atrial fibrillation. (iv) With the description of the epicardial approach to the Wolf Parkinson White syndrome in 1983, he was the first surgeon to replace an open heart technique by a routine beating-heart off-pump technique with remarkable success, setting the gold standard for arrhythmia surgery and describing along the way new techniques for exposure and dislocation of the beating heart that are routinely used today for off pump coronary artery bypass surgery. Besides his contributions to arrhythmias, Dr. Guiraudon performed the first heart transplantation in Europe in 1968 and described an original approach to the mitral valve in 1990.

His guiding principles in science were observation and experimentation. Astute observation in the operating room allowed him to identify unrecognized pathology, such as the arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia, the coronary sinus diverticulum, and many other pathological entities. He strived to make surgical technique both an experiment and optimal therapy - surgery being an experiment to evaluate the mechanisms of success, and failure the necessary condition for progress in understanding pathophysiology and improving surgical technique in the best interest of patient.

The career of Doctor Guiraudon spans over three decades and two continents: in Paris France, London Canada, Buffalo New York, Ottawa Canada and now back home in London to meet his latest challenge - replacing conventional open cardiac surgery by a more patient friendly surgical technique using off-pump, beating-heart, intra-cardiac surgery. This requires the design and development of entirely new technologies and the use of robotics, haptics and imaging in a dramatic different way. Doctor Guiraudon has already materialized his vision by designing and testing a number of new concepts and devices to make his new project a success. The first of these is the application of the Guiraudon Universal Cardiac Introducer (GUCI) to the ValveXchange technology.