

tyco

Healthcare

**Nellcor
Puritan Bennett**

4280 Hacienda Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Tele: 925 463-4000
Fax: 925 463-4420

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Sarah Kramer	Kristin Garvin
Tyco Healthcare/Mallinckrodt	Nellcor/Puritan Bennett
(314) 654-3258	(925) 463-4353
Sarah.Kramer@tycohealthcare.com	Kristin.Garvin@tycohealthcare.com

**PURITAN BENNETT LOANS CRITICAL OXYGEN RESERVOIRS, ENABLING
ORANGE COUNTY OXYGEN-DEPENDENT PATIENTS TO TRAVEL**

*Lightweight, Long-lasting HELiOS® Personal Oxygen System
Helps Patients Stay Active, Travel*

Pleasanton, Calif. (June 6, 2006) – A group of 27 oxygen-dependent patients from Orange County, Calif. can breathe easier as they board a cruise ship in San Francisco bound for Alaska on June 15, thanks in part to the short-term loan of *HELiOS® Universal* reservoirs by Puritan Bennett, manufacturer of the *HELiOS®* personal oxygen system.

This seemingly ambitious undertaking has been spearheaded by Jim Barnett, RCP, RRT, a pulmonary rehabilitation coordinator at Mission Hospital in Mission Viejo, who runs an outpatient pulmonary rehabilitation program. Although this is not the first cruise for Barnett and his group, it is the largest number of oxygen-dependent patients he's taken on a trip. In total, 40 *HELiOS Universal* reservoirs – which patients will have in their cabins to refill individual portable units – will accompany the group. Puritan Bennett has loaned 20 of the reservoirs for use during the trip; homecare providers Apria and Lincare are providing the use of another 10 each. In addition, Puritan Bennett will loan 20 flow regulators to help passengers conserve oxygen use.

“Since this was the largest group of oxygen-dependent patients who has ever signed up to go on a cruise, I realized the significant need for oxygen, so I turned to Puritan Bennett, Apria and Lincare, all of whom were gracious enough to meet our needs,” Barnett said. “Otherwise, this trip might not have happened.”

Barnett – who is always on the search for the latest technology to keep his oxygen-dependent patients active after their diagnosis – has been a vocal advocate of the *HELiOS* personal oxygen system. The small, lightweight *HELiOS* system, which 26 of the 27 passengers on this trip use, is making the cruise a true getaway for the passengers. The *HELiOS* portable units are long lasting, giving most of Barnett’s patients increased mobility and freedom to choose the activities they want to participate in without the weight and worry of more cumbersome alternatives.

“I used to use a system that was only 7 pounds and offered me portability, but when I first tried the *HELiOS* system, I nearly danced a jig,” said Jeanne Bauer of Mission Viejo, who has been on oxygen for nearly 20 years due to a congenital birth defect that limits her oxygen intake. “At a little over 3 pounds, the *HELiOS* unit was lighter and more portable, and since it weighed less, I found I was less tired after day-long outings to Disneyland, which I love to do.

“Jim introduced me to *HELiOS* on the last cruise we took to Mexico in 2002 and I haven’t looked back since,” Bauer concluded. “This trip, I plan to get off the ship and do the White Pass Railroad and my *HELiOS* will be right there with me.”

For Puritan Bennett, it was an easy decision to provide the use of the reservoirs and flow regulators during the trip because of the company’s commitment to enabling oxygen-dependent patients to live active, fuller lives.

“We were honored to support Jim and his group,” said Raj Roychoudhury, Director of Homecare Marketing, Puritan Bennett. “We admire all that Jim has done both as a respiratory therapist and as an advocate of oxygen-dependent patients to ensure people still have a high quality of life after their diagnosis. And we’re proud that the *HELiOS* personal oxygen system is a key part of their treatment.”

About HELiOS Personal Oxygen System

The *HELiOS* Personal Oxygen System offers two convenient sizes – the *HELiOS Marathon*[™] and the *HELiOS Plus*. The patented design of these two systems offers patients portable, lightweight and long lasting supplemental liquid oxygen for the different needs of people requiring continuous oxygen treatment. For more information, visit www.heliosoxygen.com.

About Puritan Bennett

Puritan Bennett is one of the world's premier producers of respiratory-related medical products serving patients from the hospital to the home. A part of Tyco Healthcare/Mallinckrodt, Puritan Bennett is a leader in ventilators, oxygen and sleep therapy equipment, sleep diagnostics, spirometry and other respiratory products, including a clinical information system for respiratory care. For more information, visit www.puritanbennett.com.

About Tyco Healthcare

Tyco Healthcare, a major business segment of Tyco International Ltd., manufactures, distributes and services an extensive product line including disposable medical supplies, monitoring equipment, innovative wound closure products, advanced surgical devices, medical instruments and bulk analgesic pharmaceuticals. With industry-leading brand names such as Autosuture, Kendall, Mallinckrodt, Nellcor, Puritan Bennett, United States Surgical and Valleylab, Tyco Healthcare products are found in virtually every healthcare setting.