



283 E. Waterloo Rd.  
Akron, OH 44319  
Phone: 330.773.7677  
Fax: 330.773.7697  
www.theken.com

**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Theken Announces First Surgery Performed in Baltimore for  
New Spinal Fusion System**

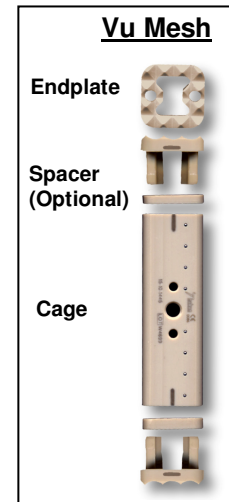
*Vu Mesh™ PEEK-OPTIMA Vertebral Body Replacement receives FDA Clearance*

**Akron, OH – (May 16, 2007)** Theken Spine, a leader in spinal fixation systems, announces that the first surgery for the Vu Mesh system was performed by Charles Park, MD in a leading hospital in Baltimore, MD.

Theken received FDA clearance to market Vu Mesh in the United States in late April. This surgery kicks off the alpha phase. This is the first product out of six for which Theken anticipates receiving FDA clearance this year.

The Vu Mesh product launch is targeted for mid-Summer 2007.

Theken worked with a team of design surgeons to develop this product. Vu Mesh™, PEEK-OPTIMA® Vertebral Body Replacement System is intended for use in the mid and low back to replace a collapsed, damaged, or unstable vertebra due to trauma or tumor. If the disc and vertebra are removed, the system acts as a spacer maintaining the proper space between vertebrae. "I like the ease of use and versatility of the system. The multi-part design enables me to customize it for different patient anatomies," states Dr. Charles Park. Vu Mesh™ is made of PEEK-OPTIMA® material, which is radiolucent (does not block X-rays), with tantalum markers allowing the surgeon to determine proper placement of the device and track the progress of bone fusion.



***For up to date information, contact Rachael Smith [rsmith@thekenspine.com](mailto:rsmith@thekenspine.com) or 330-807-2569.***

**About Theken, a family of companies**

The Theken family of companies Theken Spine, LLC, Theken Disc, LLC, Theken Orthopaedic, Inc. and Therics, LLC ([www.theken.com](http://www.theken.com)) specializes in pioneering spinal implant technologies that improve spinal surgical techniques benefiting patients as well as surgeons. Theken provides comprehensive product lines that offer surgeons peace of mind through steadfast product reliability and easy-to-use instrumentation. Products include cervical plates, pedicle screws,

spacers, degenerative/deformity and trauma devices. Theken also leads the market in next-generation artificial disc replacement technology.

**Company Contact**

Rachael Smith  
Communications Director  
Theken Spine, LLC  
Phone: 330-773-7677 x 210  
Mobile: 330-807-2569  
Email: [rsmith@thekenspine.com](mailto:rsmith@thekenspine.com)

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