

## **Monarch Labs to Demonstrate Maggot Therapy at Diabetic Limb Salvage Conference**

**Irvine, Calif., (Sept. 21, 2009)** -- Monarch Labs LLC, the exclusive supplier of Medical Maggots™ in the United States, announced today that its Laboratory Director and co-founder, Dr. Ronald Sherman, will attend the Diabetic Limb Salvage conference in Washington, DC, from September 24 to September 26. At Monarch's table display, Dr. Sherman will exhibit the company's Medical Maggots™ product (disinfected *Phaenicia sericata* larvae) and demonstrate this natural therapy to meeting participants.

Maggot therapy is the intentional introduction of live, disinfected maggots (fly larvae) into non-healing human and animal wounds for the purposes of selectively cleaning out only the dead tissue in the wounds to allow healing. Medical Maggots™ were cleared for marketing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2004, and since that time this method of treating non-healing wounds has steadily increased.

"Maggot therapy represents a revolutionary, natural and cost-effective medical device for cleaning many types of wounds," Sherman said. "In regular use in over 20 countries around the world, it has proven to be a safe and effective treatment. My goal in attending this conference is to educate more health care practitioners about the use of maggot therapy for their diabetic foot ulcer patients."

About 600,000 diabetics get foot ulcers every year nationwide, and traditional medical practices can cost up to \$8,000 to treat such wounds, according to reports. Poor blood flow in the lower legs makes those ulcers difficult to heal.

Limb-salvage experts say many of the 80,000-plus amputations of toes, feet and lower legs that diabetics undergo each year in the U.S. are preventable, and that foot amputations alone can cost up to \$30,000. Maggot therapy can be used for many types of diabetic foot ulcers. In recently published studies, nearly half of the wounds in diabetics scheduled for amputation were healed with maggot therapy, and amputation was avoided.

"When maggot therapy is used before the wounds progress to the point that amputation may be unavoidable, the success is even greater," Sherman said. "That is why we remind therapists not to hold off using maggot therapy as though it is a last resort. Patients shouldn't have to waste weeks, months or even years before they finally receive maggot therapy, all the while suffering from their chronic, limb-threatening wounds."

Medical Maggots™ also offer a much more cost-effective and natural way of treating these wounds. A vial of Medical Maggots™ sufficient for a single course of maggot therapy costs about \$100 and the related dressings cost about \$20. Most patients require no more than two or three treatments.

In addition, health care insurers are increasingly reimbursing patients who use maggot therapy. In September 2008, the American Medical Association, in collaboration with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, issued reimbursement coding guidelines for medicinal maggots and maggot therapy.

The Diabetic Limb Salvage conference, sponsored by Georgetown University Hospital/MedStar, will be held at the JW Marriott Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC, from September 24 to 26. The education program, which is expected to attract 1,100 attendees, will be presented by more than 60 nationally known diabetic limb salvage experts.

#### **About Medical Maggots™**

Medical Maggots™ (disinfected *Phaenicia sericata* larvae) are a proprietary strain of living fly larvae that are raised and processed in specialized facilities. They represent the first living organism ever allowed by the U.S. FDA for production and marketing as a prescription-only medical device. Medical Maggots™ are used for debriding non-healing necrotic skin and soft tissue wounds, including pressure ulcers, venous stasis ulcers, neuropathic foot ulcers and non-healing traumatic or post surgical wounds.

#### **About Monarch Labs**

Monarch Labs is a life sciences company that researches, develops and commercializes innovative and proprietary wound care products. Monarch's lead product is Medical Maggots™, the only maggots allowed for marketing in the United States as a medical device. In March 2009, Monarch launched the first wound dressing in the U.S. specifically designed to make maggot therapy easier and quicker to administer. The dressing has been cleared by the FDA for manufacturing and marketing under the trade name LeFlap™. For more information, visit [www.monarchlabs.com](http://www.monarchlabs.com).

#### **Media contact:**

Cheryl Kazoleas  
Kazoleas Communications  
949-716-6211  
[media@monarchlabs.com](mailto:media@monarchlabs.com)

#### **SUMMARY –**

Dr. Ronald Sherman, Co-Founder and Laboratory Director of Monarch Labs LLC, will attend the Diabetic Limb Salvage conference in Washington, DC, from September 24 to September 26. At the conference, Dr. Sherman will exhibit the company's Medical Maggots™ product (disinfected *Phaenicia sericata* larvae) and demonstrate how this natural therapy is treating serious diabetic wounds and saving limbs from amputation.