

**BiDil® Named to American Heart Association's 2004  
'Top 10 Advances' List**

*Only Cardiovascular Drug Recognized by AHA for Dramatically Improving Survival in African American Heart Failure Patients*

1/11/05

**WHAT:** BiDil®, NitroMed's nitric oxide-enhancing drug, was recently cited as the 2nd most significant research advance in heart disease and stroke by the American Heart Association (AHA) in 2004. BiDil, the only cardiovascular drug to make the 'Top 10' list this year, earned AHA's top honors by demonstrating a 43 percent improvement in survival for African American heart failure patients during the African American Heart Failure Trial (A-HeFT), the first trial conducted in an all African American heart failure patient population. The study, which enrolled 1,050 patients, also reported a 33 percent reduction in first hospitalization for heart failure and an early and sustained improvement in the overall quality of life.

**WHY:** The African American community is affected at a greater rate by heart failure than that of the corresponding Caucasian population. African Americans between the ages of 45 and 64 are 2.5 times more likely to die from heart failure than Caucasians in the same age range.

The A-HeFT trial was co-sponsored by the Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc. (ABC). In July 2004, the study was halted early by the Data and Safety Monitoring Board due to the significant survival benefit seen with BiDil.

**WHO:** Spokespeople are available to further discuss the unmet need of African Americans with heart failure and additional details of the A-HeFT trial:

- Anne Taylor, M.D., University of Minnesota (primary A-HeFT investigator)
- Clyde Yancy, M.D., University of Texas Southwestern at Dallas (A-HeFT investigator)
- Malcolm Taylor, M.D., Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc. (ABC)
- Gary Puckrein, Ph.D., National Minority Health Month Foundation
- Michael Loberg, Ph.D., NitroMed, Inc.

*For more information on NitroMed, BiDil and A-HeFT, visit [www.nitromed.com](http://www.nitromed.com) or to view the AHA's complete list of Top 10 Advances for 2004, visit [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org).*