



Machiel van der Leest has developed and successfully introduced 15 Class III medical devices; now, he's at it again... with bioresorbable stents.

“You cannot be in development eternally,” he insists.

RENAISSANCE MAN VAN DER LEEST HAS BROAD INTELLECTUAL INTERESTS AND IS ACCOMPLISHED IN AREAS OF BOTH THE ARTS AND THE SCIENCES.

Machiel van der Leest is not a self-promoter. On the contrary: Like any savvy leader, he prefers to give credit to others. But the facts are that van der Leest is a skillful and successful **international businessman** who speaks **multiple languages**; holds **14 medical device patents**; loves the opera, literature, and art; and is well-versed in arcane subjects such as **industrial design engineering**. In 1999 he began his career in the device industry, serving as a project engineer and later as research and development manager for **Nycomed Amersham Medical Systems**, an international interventional cardiology and neuroradiology company headquartered in Paris. In March 2003 he co-founded **Minvasys** and joined the company as its director of research & development and regulatory affairs. During his five years at Minvasys, an interventional cardiology company, van der Leest developed, CE-marked and registered internationally **10 Class-III medical devices**, including PTCA catheters, coronary stents, and proprietary systems for bifurcations. In April 2008 he was recruited to ART as the company's COO, and appointed ART's CEO in October 2008.

NOW, “ARTERIAL REMODELING”—THE NEXT ‘BIG THING’ IN THE CATH LAB?

ART's *bioresorbable* stents are designed to dismantle *in vivo* over an *optimized* time horizon, allowing the body's own natural arterial remodeling process to occur, unrestricted by the presence of a *permanent* metallic stent. ART's proprietary, polymer-based technology promotes natural remodeling of an injured and/or diseased artery after angioplasty or other similar procedures. “Stenting is the default device in percutaneous coronary interventions,” says Machiel van der Leest, “but we believe the presence of stents should be *brief*, while *facilitating* healing.” According to van der Leest, ART's founders—cardiologist **Antoine Lafont** and polymer scientist **Michel Vert**—founded ART in order to develop a natural, safe and smooth-resorbing stent to support the arterial remodeling process after angioplasty. “ART's polymer is of the same family as our primary competitor and thus benefits from the overall safety track record of polylactic acid (PLA) in medicine—with 40 years of experience in sutures, bone screws, pharmaceutical release agents, and tissue engineering. However, ART's polylactic acid-based polymer is *very different* from the competition's. Indeed, the ART polymer is designed to be superior, because ART understands how to preserve the polymer's quality with a polymer-specific design that not only sustains the stent's biomechanics but also its bioresorption and biocompatibility qualities.” ■



Machiel van der Leest

Co-founded Minvasys; holds 14 patents

THERE IS A HIGH DEGREE of resolve to stay close to the ART founders' principle of promoting *natural healing* of the artery after angioplasty, as we pursue development of our *non-eluting* stent platform through large-scale preclinical trials in 2010 and start a first-in-man study by 2011,” says Machiel van der Leest. “However, recent advances in medicine have taught us that *some* patient groups may need additional drug therapy over time to combat restenosis. Consequently, ART's strategy is to explore a variety of drug-eluting stent approaches, which would then significantly increase the flexibility of our therapeutic offerings, thus leaving the question—with, or without drug?—to the physician. Nevertheless, while ART remains adaptable in its drug development plans, our overriding intent is to secure a CE Marking by no later than 2012,” adds van der Leest, who has developed and introduced **15 Class-III medical devices** during the past decade. “After all, reality dictates that a company cannot be in development *eternally*.”