

U.S. Professional Cyclist Tom Danielson Teams Up to Promote STAAR Surgical's Visian ICL Procedure

World-class cyclist proves competitive advantage in most difficult of sports

MONROVIA, Calif. (January 31, 2012) --- Top U.S. professional cyclist Tom Danielson and STAAR Surgical Company - maker of the Visian ICL implantable lens for correcting nearsightedness - have teamed up after his best year of performance results on the world circuit.

Danielson had the Visian ICL procedure last year to correct his 480/20 vision. The procedure provided Danielson better than 20/20 vision, and has helped elevate his performance substantially in one of the most physically and mentally demanding endurance sports. He said the procedure proved that the superior product of Visian ICL can endure the toughest conditions, making it great for active lifestyle athletes.

"It is no coincidence that I had my best season following the Visian ICL procedure," said Danielson, who was the top American finisher (9th overall) in the 2011 Tour de France. "Sight in cycling is everything. Imagine descending a mountain going 60 miles per hour on less than one inch of rubber. Every rock, pothole or dip in the road comes at you quickly, and you have to react with cat-like precision. The Visian ICL has transformed my racing and my life in a very real way. This is a leading product for any outdoor, active individual."

Robin Hughes, Global Vice President of Marketing added: "The Visian ICL provides high definition vision and life-changing results. We are delighted that Tom Danielson has experienced these benefits. We wish him every success and look forward to working with him this year. We believe he is a great ambassador for our product."

Danielson will be featured heavily in online, social and trade campaigns (see video link and online ads).

Danielson opted for the Visian ICL for its high-definition vision, and learned that he could remove the Visian ICL and go back to wearing contacts if his vision was anything less than superior. The procedure took just 30 minutes, and he was back to normal training within a day.

"I didn't have a lot of options because of my poor eyesight and severe dry eye," Danielson added. "Visian ICL has provided me a new lease on my eyesight. It sounds a bit corny, but I see things like an eagle now."

Danielson previously wore contact lenses and carried a spare pair of glasses in his pocket while he trained and raced. He is no longer inconvenienced by contacts or glasses, he added, noting the procedure gave him a sense of freedom.

"I want everyone to know how great this procedure is," said Danielson, who also finished 3rd overall in the Tour of California and 4th overall in the USA Pro Challenge in Colorado, the two top professional bicycle races in the U.S. "For anyone with severe nearsightedness, this is *the* solution. Anyone with an active lifestyle should opt for the Visian ICL procedure."

Danielson, who races for the Garmin-Barracuda professional cycling team, which is one of the top teams in the world, will compete in many of the top professional cycling races in 2012, including the Tour de France, Tour of Switzerland, Tour of California and USA Pro Cycling Challenge. He begins his season in next month's Tour of Langkawi, the national tour of Malaysia, which he won in 2003.

About the Visian ICL

The Visian ICL is a soft lens placed in the eye between the iris and natural lens that works with the eye to correct mild to severe nearsightedness (myopia). Minutes after the Visian ICL procedure, the dramatic improvement of vision quality and the remarkable short and painless recovery time provides a unique "WOW!" factor that patients experience immediately. Created and manufactured by STAAR Surgical (Monrovia, Calif.), the Visian ICL is currently sold in nearly 50 countries, and over a quarter million lenses have been chosen by patients worldwide. More information about the Visian ICL is available at <http://www.VisianInfo.com>. To learn more about the Tom Danielson Visian ICL story go to <http://www.MyBestEyes.com>.

About Tom Danielson

Tom Danielson, 33, is one of the United States top cyclists and one of the world's top climbers. He finished 9th overall as the top American in the 2011 Tour de France. He has finished in the Top 10 of the Tour of Spain, having won a stage of that race in 2006. He won the 2005 Tour de Georgia, 2003 Tour of Langkawi, and finished 3rd in the Tour of California and 4th in the USA Pro Challenge in Colorado in 2011. He rides for the American-based and top-ranked Garmin-Barracuda team, which last year held the leader's jersey of the Tour de France for more than a week while also winning three stages. He lives in Boulder, Colo. For more information: www.tomdanielson.com.