RICHMOND, VIRGINIA; February 18, 2017 – The Arcady Group, LLC, a consulting company that helps organizations address global health issues and enhance patient and disease management by addressing the challenges of medication non-adherence, has successfully completed its work under a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. That grant, made in June, 2015, charged The Arcady Group to develop, source, and deploy a highly affordable, highly scalable, and tuberculosis-appropriate medication adherence reminder-monitor device for use in clinical trials and in clinical practice in China and India. The device, the “Medication Event-Reminder Monitor” (“MERM”), has been developed, successfully manufactured and sourced, and is now being used in a large (3800 patients), health outcomes-oriented, cluster-randomized trial conducted by the China Center for Disease Control and Prevention across 24 counties/districts in the provinces of Zhejiang, Jiangxi and Jilin, China.

Medication adherence is critical in the treatment of tuberculosis (“TB”). The risks of disease relapse and acquired drug resistance decreases substantially with increasing duration of TB therapy. Irregular adherence to TB therapy — even for patients who achieve treatment completion — is significantly associated with increased rates of disease relapse. New, cost-effective adherence monitoring technologies, such as the MERM device, will enable more patient-centered adherence monitoring options and will inform and enable differentiated care to improve health outcomes and reduce TB morbidity and mortality.

The Arcady Group selected Wisepill Technologies, Ltd., a South African-based manufacturer of a range of highly-referenced adherence monitoring technologies for use with TB and HIV patients in resource-limited settings, to develop and manufacture the MERM device. The MERM is highly affordable, is specifically designed to be used with blister-packaged TB medications, incorporates visual and audible reminders of both daily dosing and refill, compiles detailed dosing histories, and transmits these data to digital health systems to support enhanced adherence counseling and guide differentiated care.

Wisepill Technologies Director and Owner, Lloyd Marshall, commented, “We are delighted to bring new levels of affordability, reliability, and functionality to TB adherence monitoring. The MERM device is very low patient burden, has been well
accepted by Chinese patients and providers, and holds great promise to achieve more patient-centric and more differentiated care for TB patients.”

Commenting on The Arcady Group’s work under the Gates Foundation grant, Bruce V. Thomas, Founder and Managing Director of The Arcady Group stated “We are grateful to the Gates Foundation for their support, and we are very pleased to have been able to help bring a new, highly affordable, highly scalable adherence technology to the global fight against tuberculosis. The MERM device has been very well received by Chinese patients and health providers. We are confident that it will be an essential tool in this, the first health outcomes-oriented trial involving TB, and we further believe that, when deployed at scale and in conjunction with counseling from providers, the MERM device will play an important role in ongoing efforts to reduce TB morbidity and mortality.”

###

About The Arcady Group, LLC.
The Arcady Group helps organizations and businesses address global health issues, enhance patient and disease management, and improve the effectiveness and the efficiency of health systems. We turn science into action – enhancing patient management and health system delivery in some of the world’s most challenging disease states and in some of the most health-care challenged regions of the world. The Arcady Group has served as both consultant to, and grantee of, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, working on matters relating to TB medication adherence and differentiated care in China, India, and Africa. For more information, please visit thearcadygroup.com.¹

About Wisepill Technologies, Ltd.
Wisepill develops and manufactures technologies that enable monitoring and measurement of patient medication-taking behavior. Wisepill solutions are cost-effective, scalable, and widely accepted by patients. Founded in South Africa in 2007, Wisepill medication dispensers have been used in more than 20 countries and 40 research trials. To learn more, please visit wisepill.com.

Contact:
Bruce V. Thomas
Founder & Managing Director
bruce.v.thomas@thearcadygroup.com
+1 804-339-7028

¹ The Arcady Group holds no financial interest in Wisepill or the MERM device.