



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CRITICAL PATH INSTITUTE AND INNOVATIVE MEDICINES INITIATIVE ANNOUNCE
FORMAL COLLABORATION**

Internationally renowned organizations share common commitment to advancing science that improves medical product development

Tucson, Arizona, June 14, 2011 – Critical Path Institute (C-Path) and the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) announced today that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to further the missions of both organizations.

C-Path, based in the United States, and IMI, based in the European Union, share similar objectives that accelerate the development of safer, more effective medicines for patients. Both organizations bring together scientists from the pharmaceutical industry and academic institutions, as well as representatives from patient organizations and regulatory agencies, by forming precompetitive public-private partnerships that address scientific challenges impeding the successful development of new medical products. This MoU indicates the intent of C-Path and IMI to find opportunities to leverage one another's work in order to accelerate progress and prevent duplication of efforts.

The collaboration will foster increased information sharing regarding each organization's programs and create a mechanism to exchange knowledge and develop scientific consensus regarding research and testing methods. It also aims at establishing a platform to provide oversight and management of databases of non-competitive information to be made available for public use. This will occur under the formal collaborative agreement via joint meetings, shared strategic agendas, streamlined communication, and complementary projects.

In the key area of drug safety, discussions for such a knowledge exchange are already ongoing. The Predictive Safety Testing Consortium (PSTC) led by C-Path and the Safer and Faster Evidence-Based Translation (SAFE-T) Consortium supported by IMI are currently working on the development of new biomarkers to predict drug-induced injury to the liver, kidney, and vascular system in the clinical setting. Increased collaboration between the international consortia could create important synergies and lead to better results for both projects, for instance in their interactions with regulatory authorities including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and European Medicines Agency (EMA).

According to Former FDA Commissioner, Mark B. McClellan, MD, PhD, who currently Directs the Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform at the Brookings Institution, "Partnerships between scientists, product developers, and regulators -- like C-Path and IMI -- are an important step toward accelerating the development of innovative new medicines. I hope this collaboration will improve the efficiency of the medicine development process in bringing safe, efficacious, cost-effective treatments to patients."

Michel Goldman, MD, PhD, Executive Director of IMI said, “The uniqueness of what IMI is doing is the scale and the innovative approach of the collaborative research now being undertaken and how it is transforming drug development. It is clear that IMI is performing a vital role in finding better solutions for patients across Europe, and, via the collaboration with C-Path, the impact will be global.”

According to Raymond Woosley, MD, PhD, President and CEO of C-Path, “C-Path and IMI’s work together will benefit patients around the world by making the drug development process more efficient by decreasing the time between discovery and patient access to new therapies.”

About Critical Path Institute (C-Path): An independent, non-profit organization established in 2005 with public and private philanthropic support from the Southern Arizona community, Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz), and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), C-Path is committed to improving health and saving lives by accelerating the development of safe, effective medicines. An international leader in forming collaborations around this mission, C-Path has established global, public-private partnerships that currently include over 1,000 scientists from government regulatory agencies, academia, patient advocacy organizations, and thirty five major pharmaceutical companies. C-Path is headquartered in Tucson, Arizona, with offices in Phoenix, Arizona, and Rockville, Maryland. For more information, visit www.c-path.org.

About the Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking (IMI): IMI is the world’s largest public-private partnership in health care. The European Union contributes €1 billion to the IMI research programme, which is matched by in kind contributions worth at least another €1 billion euro from the member companies of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA). IMI is improving the environment for pharmaceutical innovation in Europe, by engaging and supporting networks of industrial and academic experts in collaborative research projects. IMI is currently funding 23 projects, many of which are already producing impressive results. The projects do not aim to develop new medicines as such, but focus on new methods and tools that will enable the entire sector to accelerate the development of safer and more effective treatments for patients. A comprehensive overview of ongoing projects is available at www.imi.europa.eu. IMI will launch a new Call for proposals in mid-June 2011.

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