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LEADING PHARMACOLOGIST AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENTIST JOINS CRITICAL PATH INSTITUTE

Thorir D. Bjornsson, MD, PhD, Hired as Director, Critical Path to TB Drug Regimens, Regulatory Science Consortium

Tucson, Arizona, November 18, 2010 – Thorir D. Bjornsson, MD, PhD, has joined Critical Path Institute (C-Path) as a member of its Board of Directors, and will also lead one of its major consortia, the Critical Path to TB Drug Regimens, Regulatory Science Consortium (CPTR). Dr. Bjornsson previously held academic appointments at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, and at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. During his academic career, Dr. Bjornsson maintained an active research laboratory and clinical research unit, funded by federal and foundation grants, and industry support. In his biopharmaceutical industry career, Dr. Bjornsson led global early clinical development and clinical pharmacology across all therapeutic areas, first at Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS), and subsequently at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

Dr. Bjornsson has published 225 published papers, abstracts, and book chapters. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including Nanaline Duke Scholar at Duke University, Samuel M.V. Hamilton Family Professor of Medicine at Jefferson, President's Award at BMS, and Team-of-the-Year Award at Wyeth. Dr. Bjornsson is a graduate of the Medical School of the University of Iceland. After initial clinical training in hematology/oncology, he trained in clinical pharmacology at Stanford University Medical Center, Palo Alto, California. Dr. Bjornsson's specialties include early clinical drug development; clinical pharmacology; translational medicine and therapeutics.

“Dr. Bjornsson brings outstanding scientific expertise in drug development to lead this consortium,” said Dr. Ray Woosley, President and CEO of C-Path. “With the rapid growth of tuberculosis (TB) as a global problem and the increasing threat of drug-resistant TB, speeding the development of new drug regimens for TB is no longer just an option, but a major public health imperative. Dr. Woosley also noted that Dr. Bjornsson’s broad expertise in

medicine, industry, and academia is a tremendous asset as a member of the C-Path Board of Directors.

CPTR is a broad public/private collaboration of pharmaceutical companies, government, regulatory, and multilateral agencies, donors, academia, advocates, and non-government organizations. Dr. Bjornsson will serve as C-Path's Director of the Regulatory Science Consortium, an arm of CPTR that aims to create new tools that accelerate the development of new, safe, and highly effective tuberculosis drug combinations. He will focus CPTR's efforts on developing and promoting innovative regulatory science essential for supporting new combination drug development including: data standards and integration, FDA/EMA qualified biomarkers, quantitative disease progression models, disease response metrics and assays, and new measures of drug interactions.

"I am excited about this opportunity to work with some of the global leaders in public health and the potential that CPTR has to influence the treatment of TB and the drug development process in general," said Dr. Bjornsson.

About Critical Path Institute (C-Path): An independent, non-profit organization established in 2005, C-Path is committed to transformational improvement of the drug development process. An international leader in forming collaborations around this mission, C-Path has brought recognition to Arizona through first of its kind global programs and partnerships which currently include over 750 scientists from international government regulatory agencies, academia, patient advocacy organizations, and thirty 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 CPTR: The Critical Path to TB Drug Regimens (CPTR) initiative aims to speed the development of new and markedly improved drug regimens for tuberculosis. This partnership brings together the world's leading pharmaceutical and other drug developers, global regulatory agencies, and civil society organizations to support advances in regulatory science, the development of infrastructure, and other progress needed to facilitate the development and availability of new TB drug treatments. Co-founded by the Critical Path Institute, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development (TB Alliance) and launched in March 2010, CPTR is working with stakeholders around the world to advance a new paradigm that dramatically speeds new TB drug regimens to patients. For more information, visit www.cptrinitiative.org.

CPTR Founding Partners: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**,** Critical Path Institute**,** and the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development (TB Alliance).

CPTR Participating Organizations: Anacor, AstraZeneca, Bayer, European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Novartis, Otsuka, Pfizer, Sanofi Aventis, Sequella, Treatment Action Group (TAG), and Vertex.

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