



ICON Announces Details of New Translational Medicine Unit in Manchester

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DUBLIN, Dec 07, 2009 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- **ICON plc, (NASDAQ:ICLR)(ISIN:IE0005711209)**, a global provider of outsourced development services to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries, today announced details of its new translational medicine unit in Manchester, UK. The unit is the first deliverable from a collaborative agreement between ICON and the Central Manchester University Hospitals Foundation (CMFT) to develop purpose-built translational medicine facilities on the newly-developed Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI) campus.

Scheduled to open in April 2010, the new hospital-based unit will comprise of 34 beds, an on-site GMP pharmacy, a sample handling laboratory, multiple meeting and admissions rooms and has contiguous access to the Accident and Emergency department at the MRI. The unit will also offer Pharmacodynamic study testing suites that are fully environmentally controlled, which will be used to further enhance ICON's market leadership in the development and validation of Pharmacodynamic models that assist in identifying efficacy signals in compounds. The development complements ICON's investment in new bioanalytical and biomarker laboratory capabilities in Manchester in 2008.

"We are delighted to be collaborating with a partner who shares our vision for early-stage clinical development and are proud to be developing our world class translational medicine facility at the CMFT campus," commented Dr. Thomas Frey, President, ICON Development Solutions. "We have been conducting clinical pharmacology in Manchester for over 25 years and this new unit will enable us to continue to develop the region as an international centre of excellence in translational medicine. The facilities and the relationships that ICON has established will enable sponsors to rapidly access the appropriate populations to develop their drugs."

CMFT is a member of the Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC) which is one of only five such sites in the UK designated by the Department of Health. as a centre of excellence in applying health research and education into healthcare. Through the collaboration, ICON will share expertise with academic and medical communities of this network and has access to the facilities of the other NHS members and the University of Manchester. ICON is continuing to build on its established links with key clinical researchers and clinical research networks. Recent activity includes diabetic, paediatric, dermatology and cardiovascular studies.

About ICON plc

ICON plc is a global provider of outsourced development services to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries. The Company specialises in the strategic development, management and analysis of programs that support clinical development - from compound selection to Phase I-IV clinical studies. ICON currently has about 7,000 employees, operating from 68 locations in 38 countries.

Further information is available at www.iconplc.com

ICON/ICLR-G

SOURCE: ICON plc

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