



Investigative Sites Worldwide Rate ICON as a Top CRO According to Industry Survey

84% of respondents rate the quality of their relationship with ICON as 'excellent' or 'good'

DUBLIN--(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 that it has been ranked by investigative sites as a top CRO according to CenterWatch's first-ever global investigative site survey. Almost 84% of respondents rated the quality of their overall relationship with ICON as either 'excellent' or 'good' according to 29 relationship attributes in categories including project management, staff professionalism, work style, study initiation, ongoing study conduct and grant payment process.

Commenting on the results, Peter Gray, CEO at ICON, said "Our relationships with sites are the lynchpin of everything that we do and we are delighted that the excellent work by our site monitoring and project management staff worldwide is being recognised. We place a lot of emphasis on training, managing and supporting our staff to respond to the needs of our investigative sites and we remain committed to developing open and transparent relationships with investigators."

The CenterWatch survey, which was conducted online between February and March, 2011, measured the responses from 1,205 principal investigators, sub-investigators and study coordinators from sites worldwide, with more than 75% of respondents from North America and Europe. Sites were requested to rate the CROs they had worked with in the past two years on 29 relationship attributes and to provide feedback on the importance of these attributes when conducting their clinical trials.

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 almost 7,800 employees, operating from 77 locations in 39 countries. www.iconplc.com

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