



Innovative Medicines Initiative

## PRESS RELEASE

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### EU'S INNOVATIVE MEDICINES INITIATIVE ANNOUNCES FORMAL COLLABORATION WITH US CRITICAL PATH INSTITUTE

Internationally renowned organisations share common commitment to  
advancing science that improves development of better medicines

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

**IMI, based in the European Union, and C-Path, based in the United States**, share similar objectives that accelerate the development of safer, more effective medicines for patients. Both organisations bring together scientists from the pharmaceutical industry and academic institutions, as well as representatives from patient organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises and regulatory agencies, by forming **precompetitive public-private partnerships**. By combining their knowledge and expertise in innovative projects, the scientists in these partnerships are able to **tackle challenges that are too big and complex for individual research teams to handle on their own**. This MoU indicates the intent of IMI and C-Path 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 organisation'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 **SAFE-T consortium** supported by **IMI** and the **Predictive Safety Testing Consortium (PSTC)** led by the **Critical Path Institute** are currently working on the development of new **biomarkers** to predict, diagnose and monitor **drug-induced injury to the liver, the kidney and the 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 **interaction** with the European and US **regulatory authorities EMA and FDA**.

**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.'*

**Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)**

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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 the Innovative Medicines Initiative (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. The Innovative Medicines Initiative 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](http://www.imi.europa.eu). IMI will launch a **new Call for proposals** in June 2011.

#### **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](http://www.c-path.org).

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