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Merged Cancer Research Organization Unveils New Name, Identity

Arlington, VA [September 22, 2011]: The American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN) and the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) today announced the name of the two organizations' combined clinical research alliance: **ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group** (ECOG-ACRIN). The newly formed entity blends the complementary strengths of each legacy organization, with research focused on the full cancer care continuum.

"We are already actively engaged in the shared mission of reshaping the future of patient care through clinical research that leads to earlier cancer detection, more successful therapeutic intervention, greater rates of prevention and more successful patient outcomes.," said ACRIN Chair Mitchell D. Schnall, MD, PhD and ECOG Chair Robert L. Comis, MD, during a joint announcement at the 2011 ACRIN Annual Meeting here today. They said their two respective National Cancer Institute (NCI) cooperative groups have merged their oncology research activities into three core areas of emphasis:

- Early detection and diagnosis of cancer;
- Biomarker-driven Phase II and Phase III therapeutic studies for multiple cancer types and stages; and
- Genetic, molecular and imaging marker research to predict and monitor treatment response.

The two leaders said they expect ECOG-ACRIN to achieve together what was not possible separately, "through the bold integration of disciplines and technologies." The joint statement went on to say, "We offer the unique capacity to conduct definitive, groundbreaking, biomarker-driven clinical research that promises to achieve patient-centered breakthroughs."

The group also unveiled its logo and mission tagline: "Reshaping the future of patient care".

Integration efforts are well underway and the group's leadership is developing the business, administrative and scientific framework for ECOG-ACRIN to sustain and streamline its combined research portfolio through public and private support.

About ECOG-ACRIN

ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group (ECOG-ACRIN) was formed in the spring of 2011 by Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (www.ecog.org) and American College of Radiology Imaging Network (www.acrin.org). The organization focuses on three primary areas of research: early detection and diagnosis of cancer; biomarker-driven phase II and phase III therapeutic studies for multiple cancer types and stages; and genetic, molecular and imaging marker research to predict and monitor treatment response. With core strengths performing large-scale trials with molecular endpoints in major diseases and clinical trials encompassing the full range of medical imaging research, ECOG-ACRIN has a concerted focus on accelerating the integration of biological advances into improved patient outcomes.