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INAUGURAL eHEALTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE SEEKS TO HIGHLIGHT TECHNOLOGY AND ADVANCE THE EMERGING FIELD

BOSTON, MA, April 27, 2005 – The Health e-Technologies Initiative is pleased to announce that National Program Director, David K. Ahern, Ph.D., will deliver the opening presentation at the first annual *Critical Issues in eHealth Research Conference* taking place June 9 and 10 in Bethesda, Maryland. The conference is co-sponsored by the Health e-Technologies Initiative, the National Cancer Institute and the National Library of Medicine, and other leading organizations in the field of eHealth.

Ahern's address will highlight the current and emerging state of eHealth and emphasize the need for systematic evaluation research to advance the field. He will also discuss the need for practitioners and patients alike to adopt new technologies that enable and support evidence-based care. "The Health e-Technologies Initiative's mission is to build the science of eHealth and this event promises to determine priorities and establish a standard for the evaluation and dissemination of emerging high quality research," Ahern said.

In addition to his role as National Program Office Director, Dr. Ahern is Chief Science Officer for Abacus Management Technologies based in Rhode Island. He also serves as Assistant Professor of Psychology (Psychiatry) at Harvard Medical School and is on the staff of Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) in Boston. He has published more than 60 original articles in the areas of chronic pain, psychosocial aspects of musculoskeletal disorders, cardiovascular behavioral medicine and eHealth research. Dr. Ahern has been actively involved in the development and evaluation of advanced technologies for health care applications.

The Health e-Technologies Initiative, housed at BWH, is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation® (RWJF). The program creates and implements a scientifically-based research agenda by evaluating promising interventions and providing the evidence base and knowledge required to build better eHealth programs. To learn more, visit www.hetinitiative.org. For conference information and to register, visit www.scgcorp.com/ehealthconf2005/index.asp.

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