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ACRP’S NEW CERTIFICATION SUPPORTING PARTNER PROGRAM IS LAUNCHED

Alexandria, Va.—The Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP) is pleased to announce the launch of ACRP’s new Certification Supporting Partner (CSP) program. Among other benefits, partners in the program can financially support and actively encourage their eligible employees’ pursuit of Certification and Maintenance of Certification through the CCRC®, CCRA®, and CPI® Certification tracks for clinical research coordinators (CRCs), clinical research associates (CRAs/monitors), and physician investigators (PIs), respectively.

For employers, regulators, sponsors, and other stakeholders, certification can serve several purposes—from providing evidence to a regulatory agency of a research team’s experience and qualifications, to validating competency when selecting a research site or considering a new employee. Recent evidence has indicated that regulators believe certification reduces risk to research subjects. There are fewer errors, lower costs, more rapid turnaround, and greater safety in trials when certified personnel are involved.

The Certification Supporting Partner program is designed to support organizations committed to conducting responsible and ethical clinical research by encouraging employees to earn their ACRP Certification. Participating organizations are provided with tools and resources to make becoming ACRP Certified and maintaining that Certification easy and more affordable for their employees, as well as raising invaluable public recognition of their dedication to quality clinical research.

ACRP Director of Certification Morgean Hirt says “ACRP and the Academy are thrilled to introduce our initial supporters and participants in this new program: Medtronic; SERRG; Profil Institute for Clinical Research; and Holston Medical Group Clinical Research. Our organizations share a mission to promote integrity and excellence in the clinical research profession and certification is a cornerstone program to further this effort. This new program is geared toward meeting the needs of companies wanting to apply an organizational approach to getting their teams certified, being recognized for that effort, and gaining the cost advantages to do so. The Certification Supporting Partner Program is the first of its kind in our profession, and we hope other organizations that share our vision choose to participate and show their dedication to the continued professional development of their employees as
well."

"We believe that becoming an ACRP Certification Supporting Partner is a huge opportunity to promote and support our employees' pursuit of certification for investigators, study coordinators, and field monitors; to establish a standard of practice for our teams participating in clinical trial conduct, thereby improving overall quality, subject safety, and regulatory compliance; and to provide our SERRG employees with the resources and materials they need to insure they remain current with industry standards," says SERRG’s CEO and chief physician investigator, Jeff Kingsley, DO, MBA, MS, CPI®, FAAFP. "Congratulations to ACRP for its vision and commitment to our professional growth and development."

As ACRP Certification Supporting Partners, all four organizations will have access to grant its employees special partner pricing on registrations for the annual ACRP Global Conference & Exhibition, being held next year April 26–29 in San Antonio, Texas; savings on Exam Practice Exercises for use in preparation for ACRP Certification examinations; and periodic aggregate reports on the performance of its employees, by designation, on the examinations across five main content areas. Medtronic; SERRG; Profil Institute for Clinical Research; and Holston Medical Group Clinical Research will also be recognized by ACRP as official Certification Supporting Partners and advocate for certification for clinical research professionals.

The CCRC®, CCRA®, and CPI® programs, overseen by ACRP's affiliate, the Academy of Clinical Research Professionals (the Academy), are the only certification programs for clinical researchers to be accredited independently by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). Two windows of opportunity are offered each year in which qualified applicants may take their appropriate examination. Following the successful completion of the exam, certificants must maintain certain levels of continuing education in order to renew their designation as a certified CRC, CRA, or PI every two years.

**ACRP**

Based in Alexandria, Va., and founded in 1976, the nonprofit ACRP has a worldwide membership of nearly 18,000 research professionals dedicated to the safe and ethical conduct of clinical trials across the globe for new drugs, medical devices, and therapies in volunteer human subjects.