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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **C-Path Announces Appointment of Jeffrey Cossman, M.D., as Chief Scientific Officer**

**TUCSON** — The Critical Path Institute (C-Path), today announced the appointment of Jeffrey Cossman, M.D., an internationally recognized expert in molecular pathology, to the position of Chief Scientific Officer. In this new role, he will lead C-Path's collaborative industry-government-academic programs in accelerating the development of faster, safer drugs and companion diagnostics. This appointment will also include establishment of a C-Path satellite facility in the Washington, D.C. area.

At C-Path, Dr. Cossman will provide overall scientific leadership in support of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Critical Path Initiative in achieving one of its central goals, the establishment of partnerships to accelerate the realization of personalized medicine.

"We are delighted that Dr. Cossman has joined the C-Path team," said Janet Woodcock, M.D., Deputy Commissioner for Operations and Chief Operating Officer, FDA. "His experience with the pharmaceutical industry, the National Institutes of Health and academia will help C-Path and FDA to facilitate the formation of productive collaborations as we move forward with programs such as the Oncology Biomarker Qualification Initiative (OBQI)". The OBQI is a collaboration among the FDA, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Dr. Cossman most recently served as Vice President and Medical Director at Gene Logic Inc. in Gaithersburg, Maryland. There he directed scientific collaborations using microarray gene expression of more than 20,000 tissue samples in support of drug development programs of major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in North America, Europe and Japan.

"Dr. Cossman's background in the clinical application of molecular biomarkers is a major asset for the program – and is particularly timely as we begin working with C-Path and the FDA on the identification of biomarkers to guide targeted cancer therapy," said NCI Deputy Director Anna D. Barker, PhD.

"Jeff Cossman brings first hand experience in developing the clinical application of cutting edge technologies, such as genomics and proteomics, to

diagnostic medicine," noted Dr. Ray Woosley, President & CEO of C-Path. "He has a solid track record of creating productive collaborations that have accelerated the penetration of new technologies into clinical practice."

Dr. Cossman has served as the Oscar Benwood Hunter Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pathology at Georgetown University and as a senior scientist at the NCI-NIH. His innovations of clinical applications of molecular tools for cancer diagnosis led to the first FDA-approved DNA-based cancer diagnostic test and numerous publications including the book, *Molecular Genetics in Cancer Diagnosis*.

Dr. Cossman commented, "This is an exceptional opportunity in which there is convergence of an unmet medical need, powerful 21st century technology and the will of both government and industry to partner and develop treatments tailored to the patient."

*The Critical Path Institute (C-Path) was established in July 2005 as a publicly funded non-profit research and education institute to facilitate collaboration among its founding partners, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, The University of Arizona, and SRI International. Its mission is to facilitate the Critical Path Initiative of the FDA with the objective of faster, safer and smarter development of new medical products. Those wishing to make contributions to C-Path or its programs should contact Sally Drachman, PhD, CRFE, Director of Development, at 520-547-3451 or SDrachman@C-Path.org.*

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