



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ClinXus Adds New Members, Expands Capabilities *Clinical Trial Coordinator Strengthens Network Through the Addition of New Collaborators*

Grand Rapids, Mich., Mar. 3, 2009 – ClinXus, a non-profit collaborative research alliance targeting innovative, early-stage clinical trials, today announced the addition of the Cancer & Hematology Centers of Western Michigan and Innovative Analytics as new members.

ClinXus executive director and chief medical officer William Baer said the additions significantly expand research opportunities in West Michigan and bolster ClinXus' overall capabilities in clinical trial protocol development and data analysis.

"We are pleased to welcome these two new companies into our collaboration," said Baer. "With their help, we are building world-class research capabilities that, when combined with our alliance of health care providers and researchers, leverages the strength of all of West Michigan as a life sciences corridor."

- **Cancer & Hematology Centers of Western Michigan (CHCWM)** is the largest private oncology and hematology medical practice in Michigan. CHCWM will help ClinXus conduct research and clinical trials in the field of Oncology, giving the organization the potential to move into early-stage cancer research.
- **Innovative Analytics** is a data management firm that supports exploratory studies and clinical drug/device development programs with standard and innovative data management, statistical, and medical writing services. With the addition of Innovative Analytics, ClinXus is now able to enhance their services by providing clinical trial protocol development and analysis of the data collected during research.

The expanded partnership is a welcome addition to clinical trial development being conducted at ClinXus partner organizations. In 2008, the organization was offered an opportunity to join the Critical Path Institute (C-Path), and helped develop the design for C-Path protocol recommendations with guidance from the FDA and EMEA to assist in the future of drug development efforts. Also in 2008, ClinXus was selected to participate in a first-of-its-kind observational trial with C-Path's Predictive Safety Testing Consortium (PTSC). This clinical trial will help establish baseline values of seven novel nephrotoxicity biomarkers. Nephrotoxicity is the injurious effect of some substances, both toxic chemicals and medication, as well as chronic disease states on the kidney. Studies to follow this observational trial will include standard of care based trials and to advance to adaptive and eventually outcome based trials for these new biomarkers.

"The addition of Innovative Analytics and the CHCWM is an important step forward in our ability to conduct this level of research here in the region," said Baer. "ClinXus is working toward its goal to establish a 21st Century 'open architecture' biomarker-driven clinical trials network to serve the increasingly molecular-based medical applications."

The collaborative research alliance also plans to add additional members and further expand their capabilities in 2009.

"ClinXus stands out in the medical industry because it is a collaboration of the community's clinical trial resources," said Linda Chamberlain, Ph.D., executive director of the West Michigan Science and Technology Initiative. "Since 2006, they have worked with the Initiative and other community organizations to achieve the kind of success and industry respect that help to put West Michigan on the map as a life science hub. This year, we look forward to their continued growth and strengthening of the life sciences community in Michigan."

ClinXus is a resident of the West Michigan Science & Technology Initiative's Venture Center at Grand Valley State University's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences.

About the Critical Path Institute

The Critical Path Institute (www.c-path.org) supports the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with collaborative research and education programs that enable the safe acceleration of medical product development. The PSTC brings together 15 pharmaceutical companies to share and validate each other's safety testing methods under advisement of the FDA and its equivalent in Europe, the European Medicines Agency (EMA). ClinXus joined the PSTC in January 2008 and is the only member that is a non-profit organization.

About ClinXus

ClinXus (www.clinxus.org) was formed to establish innovative clinical trial designs that are primarily biomarker driven and to increase access to clinical research and emerging technologies provided by member organizations, enhancing patient care and establishing West Michigan as a national destination for innovative clinical research. The alliance's six founding members include Grand Valley Medical Specialists, Grand Valley State University, Jasper Clinical Research & Development, Saint Mary's Health Care, Spectrum Health and the Van Andel Institute.

About West Michigan Science & Technology Initiative

The West Michigan Science & Technology Initiative is a partnership among Grand Valley State University, Van Andel Research Institute, the City of Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Community College, The Right Place, Inc., and health care providers and educators. The Initiative is dedicated to creating an environment that advances innovation and supports the commercialization of life science and technology. Since its inception, the Initiative has assisted more than 300 clients in commercialization of new products, including funding through receipt of more than \$9 million in federal and state grant awards. For more information, please visit www.wmsti.org.

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