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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pearl IRB brings a solution to more clinical trials in Indiana

With the help of two Lilly alumni, Indiana will see more clinical trials

Indianapolis, IN – August 2, 2010 – Pearl IRB has just announced a way to attract and support more clinical trials in Indiana. By forming the first and only commercial IRB in the state of Indiana, their founders, Diana Caldwell and Gretchen Miller Bowker who are both Lilly alum, aim to support the current clinical trial market in Indiana, build more skills and capabilities for conducting trials, and support the growth of life science service providers that leaders in the industry such as the Indiana Health Industry Forum and BioCrossroads have been trying to foster.

An IRB (Institutional Review Board) review is a required and critical step in starting a clinical trial for testing the safety and effectiveness of drugs, devices, and diagnostics. As dictated by federal regulations, a review and approval from a commercial or institutional IRB are required prior to any clinical research in humans. Having an independent locally based resource to provide this service, train researchers, and help facilitate the research process is a needed capability that was recently identified by the Indiana Health Industry Forum's Clinical Trial Task Force. "Pearl provides an important gateway for clinical testing. There are few independent IRBs in the Midwest, and Pearl is the first of its kind in Indiana," states Indiana Health Industry Forum's President, Kristin Jones. " As Pearl continues to grow, it can help Indiana foster an environment that is supportive of clinical research, as well as keep and attract top life science talent for our state".

Large firms such as Lilly, Cook, Roche, DePuy, and Zimmer have been the life science attraction to Indiana for years, but given some of the recent sector downsizing, valuable life science talent will be looking for new opportunities. Pearl IRB hopes to help by building a company that delivers services which will facilitate clinical trials, with plans to scale rapidly to serve the research community in Indiana and beyond.

With over 45 years of experience between them, co-founders Diana Caldwell and Gretchen Miller Bowker have established a company based on the values of efficiency, ethics, and experience. Their backgrounds include a diverse and strong mix of large pharma and device companies, small startups, and a range of service providers in the clinical research and other fields. They know that a strong network of clinical research professionals and a supportive commercial IRB are paramount for attracting and supporting clinical trials in Indiana.

"We are driven by our company's vision which is to improve the clinical research process by delivering new therapeutics and diagnostics to patients sooner," shares President and CEO of Pearl IRB, Diana Caldwell. "We are focused on building a culture that demonstrates integrity, customer service, high quality output, and getting solutions to patients faster." Pearl IRB currently has a Board of seven people with several more adjunct board members and advisors who are assisting with reviews and the delivery of other clinical trial services.

About Pearl IRB

Pearl IRB is an independent Institutional Review Board that provides comprehensive IRB services for institutions, principal investigators, sponsors, and CROs nationwide. We deliver quality and timely reviews that balance the interests of human subjects, sponsors, and institutions. Together, we will drive enhanced efficiency and value in clinical research. To learn more, please visit us at www.pearlirb.com, call us at 317.278.4100, or email info@pearlirb.com. For media inquiries, contact Diana Caldwell at dcaldwell@pearlirb.com.