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CIRS FOUNDER RECEIVES TOPRA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Centre for Innovation in Regulatory Science (CIRS) Founder, Professor Stuart Walker has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from The Organisation for Professionals in Regulatory Affairs (TOPRA). The TOPRA award recognises an individual who through his or her life's endeavours has demonstrated a significant and lasting contribution to Regulatory Affairs.

Professor Trevor M. Jones, CBE, Director, Allergan, UK, & formerly Director General ABPI, presented Professor Walker with this prestigious award. His introduction, in which he summarises Professor Walker's contributions, is excerpted here.

Our winner has given lifelong service to Regulatory Science and has had a seminal and profound influence on Regulatory Affairs. He founded the Centre for Medicines Research International and built this to become arguably the premier group for benchmarking both research and development in the pharmaceutical industry and the regulatory process. He is the Professor of Pharmaceutical Medicine in the School of Pharmacy University of Cardiff and has supervised many PhD students who have undertaken research into the drug development process and especially into comparative regulatory affairs.

He founded the Institute of Regulatory Science [now CIRS] which, under his leadership is recognised as a leading global source of information and which has taken up a number of key matters. The first was the important topic of benchmarking, initially the performance and more recently the quality assurance of regulatory agencies. The latter has culminated in the development of a regulatory scorecard used between the agencies of Switzerland, Singapore, Canada and Australia. The former work was critical in the development of the European Regulatory system in the early '90s. He was a proponent of mutual recognition and of identifying causes of disharmony. Inevitably, this led him to be a leader in ICH and for ten years he was one of the major figures in the international harmonisation arena. Almost 25 years ago he identified the importance of determining the benefit risk assessment of medicines and has continued to promote and develop this theme. More recently he has proposed the elaboration of both qualitative and quantitative methodologies for determining benefit risk and through workshops (which continue) has led the debate between key regulatory agencies. He was also one of the first to recognise the importance of harmonisation and support for the regulatory process within the emerging markets and this particular strand of work within the Centre for Innovation in Regulatory Science has generated major benefits. The website for CIRS reveals the range of publications which has emanated under Professor Walker's leadership, covering issues such as biomarkers and stratification, use of adaptive clinical trials and the link between health technology assessment and the regulatory process.

CIRS Executive Director, Lawrence Liberti noted that "Professor Walker has provided the world with the vision to help guide the development of transparent, quality activities in the field of international regulatory affairs."

About CIRS

The Centre for Innovation in Regulatory Science (CIRS; www.cirsci.org) provides a neutral, independent international forum for industry, regulatory agencies, health technology assessment agencies and other healthcare stakeholders to identify and apply scientific principles for the purpose of advancing regulatory and health technology assessment policies and processes in medicinal products development. It is an independent UK-based subsidiary company, forming part of the Intellectual Property and Science business of Thomson Reuters (www.thomsonreuters.com) CIRS is operated as a not for profit and is governed pursuant to constitutional documents that assure it is operated for the sole support of its activities.