Charles C. Edwards, M.D., Announces Retirement as President of Scripps Institutions of Medicine and Science

La Jolla, CA. May 10, 1993 -- After more than fifteen years as President and Chief Executive Officer of Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation (SCRF) and having presided over the consolidation of the organization with Scripps Memorial Hospitals (SMH) as President and CEO of Scripps Institutions of Medicine and Science (SIMS), creating one of the largest health-science complexes in the United States, Charles C. Edwards, M.D., announced his scheduled retirement last week to the SIMS Board of Trustees. It is effective as of June 30, 1993.

In making the announcement, William Nelson, Chairman of the Board, remarked, "We owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to Dr. Edwards for his leadership, vision, wisdom and guidance for these many years. He is a leader in the truest sense of the word with an uncanny ability to anticipate trends, seize opportunities, motivate his constituencies and inspire all those who have had the pleasure of working with him. His indelible mark has been left on the institutions that he carefully shaped and molded during his tenure."

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Edwards assumed the top leadership position at Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation in 1977, immediately following the institution’s move to the main campus on Torrey Pines Mesa. Under his guidance the organization grew rapidly in size and stature, by incorporating new staff, programs and facilities. His philosophy of health care delivery emphasized highly efficient, cost effective, quality medical services in an outpatient setting. The construction of a large ambulatory facility in La Jolla, as well as a network of smaller, strategically located regional facilities throughout the San Diego County were testimony to that philosophy. The development of a comprehensive Department of Surgery, as well as multidisciplinary clinical Centers of Excellence were his contributions to a fully integrated, well rounded complement of health care services accessible throughout the County.

At the same time, The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) became the largest private biomedical research organization in the country. The research staff has extended its areas of scientific inquiry beyond its beginnings in the field of immunology and continues to conduct its work at the cutting edge of science. According to Dr. Richard A. Lerner, TSRI President, "It is very unusual that a group of research scientists would be so fond of any boss, but the fact is we have nothing but admiration for Charlie Edwards’ leadership."

Citing the need to consolidate services, conserve resources, and provide increased accessibility of health care services throughout the county, Edwards’ efforts, along with those of the Boards of Trustees of SCRF and SMH resulted in the merger of the two organizations and the creation of Scripps Institutions of Medicine and Science in January, 1991. It is today one of the largest employers in San Diego County, with more than 8,000 employees and combined revenues of $775 million. Until his resignation, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of SIMS and its health care subsidiary,
ScrippsHealth. Under this arrangement, Ames Early, former President of Scripps Memorial Hospitals Corporation, became SIMS' Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, a post he currently holds.

Frank Mahoney, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ScrippsHealth noted Edwards' pivotal role in uniting the two organizations. "Merging large, complex organizations is no small task," he said. "And when you consider the current climate of the health care industry, it becomes even more daunting. Dr. Edwards' ability to inspire confidence, his style of forging partnerships, and his unique perspective in the national arena have made it possible to reunite our organization. We are all the better for it."

Plans for Edwards' succession have been formulated and are being implemented by the SIMS Board of Trustees. A search committee, composed of members of the Board of Trustees, physicians, research scientists, and other members of the community together with a professional consultant, has been formed to mount a nationwide search for a successor, commencing immediately. Early has announced his decision not to become a candidate for the position of chief executive. He will remain in his current position.

In addition to his role at Scripps, Edwards maintained a visible profile in the national health care arena. In 1990, he chaired the Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on the Food and Drug Administration. Also he was a member of the Advisory Panel on Government Policies and Pharmaceutical R&D: Office of Technology Assessment, U.S. Congress; a member of the Secretary’s Council on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention; a member of the National Leadership Commission on Health Care; and a consultant to the General Accounting Office, Health Advisory Committee. Locally, he has served on the Board of Directors of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Symphony and is a member of the

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Mayor's Business and Economic Development Council and Chairman of its Health Care Industry Committee.


From 1975-1981, he was Senior Vice President and Director of Becton, Dickinson and Company; he has held management positions with the American Medical Association; served as Vice President of Booz, Allen and Hamilton, one of the leading management consulting firms in the country; was a member of the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine; was on the Board of Directors of the Association for Biomedical Research; was a trustee of the Food and Drug Law Institute; and served as chairman of the Committee on Technology and International Economic and Trade Issues, National Research Council.

In addition, from 1973-1974, he was Chief U.S. Delegate to the World Health Organization; from 1975-1980 he was President of the National Health Council and served on the Board of Directors of the World Rehabilitation Fund, Inc.

Edwards is or has been a director of several corporations: Bergen Brunswig Corporation, Nova Pharmaceutical Corporation, Biomagnetic Technologies, Inc., Chemex Pharmaceuticals, American MedCenters, Inc., MedImmune, Inc., and Molecular Biosystems, Inc., Hospital Corporation of America, and Huntingdon Research Center, Cambridge, England.
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He is a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery; a fellow of the American College of Surgeons; a member of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences; a fellow of the American College of Physician Executives, and a member of the American Medical Association. Edwards received his medical degree from University of Colorado and his master's of surgery degree from the University of Minnesota, while serving a surgical fellowship at the Mayo Foundation.

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