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# **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# Community Medical Foundation for Patient Safety Selects Vice President of Health Information Technology and Chief Information Officer

(BELLAIRE, TEXAS – January 24, 2010) The nonprofit Community Medical Foundation for Patient Safety announces its selection of the Vice President of Health Information Technology and Chief Information Officer. Mr. Link Filion joins this growing medical research organization specializing in the study of patient safety.

Elizabeth A. Smith, Founder of Community Medical Foundation for Patient Safety and an organizational expert on communication, remarked "healthcare information has grown so exponentially that it can be a double-edged sword between having more information and a better understanding of an individual's health status or being overwhelmed with too much extraneous information that impedes effective communication, shared medical decision, and health outcome." The Foundation is already leading some research areas with the study of medical errors, including medical misdiagnosis and the involvement of patients and their families in all aspects of health care.

The Vice President of Health Information Technology will lead the Foundation's strategic plan and programs that involve the appropriate use of information technology, both off-the-shelf and cutting-edge platforms in health informatics, web-based information systems, and others. In addition to this position and responsibility, Mr. Filion will hold the Foundation's executive title of Chief Information Officer.

Mr. Filion brings extensive background and experience with governmental programs, especially from the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Oklahoma, where he served as the District's first Systems Manager responsible for all installation, maintenance, and support of the first national integrated court management system (ICMS). Mr. Filion successfully demonstrated that the ICMS as the district court

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information platform vastly improved the accuracy, quality, and efficiency of the federal court information network. The civil-case information system was introduced on schedule within budget. The success with this system's reliability and accuracy, as well as personnel training, allowed Bradley On Line Data (BOLD) Management to develop and install, under Mr. Filion's direction and management, the district court's criminal-case information system six months ahead of schedule. Prior to his employment with BOLD Management, Mr. Filion worked as the office and information technology manager at Guardian Security Services in Tulsa, OK, at one time the largest alarm and security business in the city. He was directly in charge of the company's fiscal operations and consistently ensured bottom-line accountability and largest profit margins for its business ventures, investments, and expansion in the security industry.

Mr. Filion will bring his technical expertise and experience in data management and information systems design to the healthcare industry. According to Mr. Filion, "health information in this century will transform the way we do business in health care—the business of taking care of patients—by first creating a reliable, cost effective information system to get the right information and, second, processing this information and making it accessible in the most user-friendly format for all individuals." He sees Community Medical Foundation as a likely channel to amassing health information and making it available to all health providers and patients.

The Boards of Directors and Advisors and executive officers of Community Medical Foundation welcome Mr. Filion and are appreciative of his leadership and vision in supporting the Foundation's mission to improve patient safety and healthcare outcome through an ambitious effort to systematically collect patient safety information. Already, the Foundation is committed to designing the first Patient Safety Registry with the largest collection of knowledge and best practices in patient safety. Information sources for this Patient Safety Registry are research studies conducted by the Foundation and other research groups and stories experienced and submitted by healthcare providers as well patients and their families.

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### **About Community Medical Foundation for Patient Safety**



Community Medical Foundation for Patient Safety, established in December 2003 as nonprofit 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt, active learning organization based in the Houston area, is a leader in patient safety research and education. Our mission is to promote and support patient safety through research, education, and the demonstrated practice of patient-centered health care. On behalf of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has recognized and listed Community Medical Foundation for Patient Safety as Patient Safety Organization #29.