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Council for American Medical Innovation Applauds President Obama's Pledge to Invest in Science, Technology and Health Abroad

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 8, 2009) – The Council for American Medical Innovation applauds President Obama's pledge of U.S. support for scientific development and treatment of life-threatening illnesses in Muslim nations.

In his address to the Muslim nation of Cairo, Egypt last week, the President said, "All of us must recognize that education and innovation will be the currency of the 21st century, and in too many Muslim communities there remains underinvestment in these areas." To address this problem, President Obama said the U.S. will launch a new fund supporting technological development in Muslim-majority countries, open science centers in Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia and appoint Science Envoys to help promote agriculture, energy efficiency and job creation. The President also unveiled a new collaborative effort with the Organization of the Islamic Conference to eliminate polio and expand partnerships with Muslim communities to improve child and maternal health.

The Council supports these initiatives, recognizing the nation's important role in driving the global advancement of science and technology to improve quality of life by producing new cures and treatments for diseases.

"Through these and other investments, the U.S. is helping foreign countries both fight disease now and establish the infrastructure necessary to support scientific discovery," said former Congressman Richard Gephardt, president of the Council for American Medical Innovation. "Our hope is that this will lead to more global collaboration around medical innovation to help find cures for the many diseases that plague this generation."

About the Council for American Medical Innovation

The United States faces serious challenges to maintaining its leadership position in innovation. The Council for American Medical Innovation is bringing together leaders in research, medicine, public health, academia, education, labor, and business, who are working in partnership toward a national policy agenda aimed at preserving U.S. leadership in medical innovation. American medical innovators create millions of high-paying jobs, and their discoveries are integral in the fight to cure cancer and

other illnesses. The Council for American Medical Innovation views leadership in medical innovation as a key part of America's economic recovery, future prosperity and health.

For more information on the Council for American Medical Innovation, visit www.americanmedicalinnovation.org.

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