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New Zealander Installed as Chair of International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities

DALLAS – Medical Council of New Zealand Chief Executive Philip Pigou was recently installed as chair of the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA) for a two-year term after serving a two-year term as chair-elect.

IAMRA's purpose is to encourage best practices among medical regulatory authorities worldwide in the achievement of their mandate — to protect, promote and maintain the health and safety of the public by ensuring proper standards for the profession of medicine.

Speaking at IAMRA's biennial conference on "Medical Regulation in the Real World: Bringing Evidence to Bear" in Ottawa, Canada, Oct. 2-5, Mr. Pigou said, "Even recognizing that different countries come with different histories, have developed different models of regulation – and different terminology – the sharing of knowledge and ideas helps promote excellence for not just doctors, but all health professionals."

Setting out a road map for the next two years as IAMRA's chair, Mr. Pigou told delegates that the key three things to ensuring patient safety were:

- Sharing knowledge and information about best practices and solutions to key policy issues.
- Sharing information about migrating doctors.
- Assisting countries develop their regulatory systems.

"All of these directions require good relationships within IAMRA – and with other relevant groups," he said. "There have been and continue to be policy issues that many of us face in our day-to-day practice. This includes how we ensure doctors are competent to practice. Whether we call it recertification, revalidation or maintenance of licensure – ensuring the competence of doctors is one major policy issue we face."

Biography for Philip Pigou

- Chief Executive Officer of the Medical Council of New Zealand since November 2005

- Philip has a Bachelor of Law degree and a postgraduate Diploma in Business, focusing on general management and leadership.
- He has worked in senior positions in the health sector (Health Funding Authority and South Island Shared Service Agency Ltd) and in the courts. He has strong experience in change and project management, strategy development, and leadership.

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About the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA)

The success of biennial international conferences on medical regulation held since 1994 has led medical regulatory authorities around the world to recognize that international collaboration is an essential element in their role as public protectors. In 2000, participating countries officially formed the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA). For more information, please visit www.iamra.com.

About the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB)

As IAMRA's Secretariat since 2000, the FSMB supports the organization in a variety of capacities. Based in Dallas, Texas, the FSMB is a national non-profit organization representing all medical boards within the United States and its territories that license and discipline allopathic and osteopathic physicians and, in some jurisdictions, other health care professionals. It assists these state and territorial medical boards as they go about their mandate of protecting the public's health, safety and welfare. The FSMB leads by promoting excellence in medical practice, licensure, and regulation. For more information, please visit www.fsmb.org.