



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

Shannon Hoffman, 972-566-6820, shoffman@crsti.org

Christa Jones, 972-566-6820, cjones@crsti.org

Dr. Bob and Jean Smith Foundation to Match Contributions to Cardiopulmonary Research Science and Technology Institute

DALLAS (December 4, 2007) – Dr. Bob and Jean Smith Foundation has made a \$250,000 challenge grant to CRSTI, the Cardiopulmonary Research Science & Technology Institute. The Foundation will match dollar for dollar any new donations received by CRSTI between November 2007 and Summer 2008.

“This gift was made to encourage broader financial support, more research dollars and more name recognition for CRSTI’s invaluable contribution to science and medicine,” said Patty Smith, Dr. Smith’s daughter and President of the Dr. Bob and Jean Smith Foundation.

Dr. Bob & Jean Smith Foundation previously donated \$250,000 to CRSTI in 2006 in recognition of the outstanding care provided to Charles Robert “Dr. Bob” Smith, M.D., in the months leading up to his passing on June 12, 2006. This endowment was earmarked for researching new cardiovascular treatments and technologies that enhance patient care and clinical outcomes.

“We are truly grateful to the Dr. Bob and Jean Smith Foundation for their continued support” said Shannon Hoffman, CRSTI Executive Director. “This generous gift will allow CRSTI to further its mission by supporting cutting-edge research to enhance patient care and clinical outcomes.”

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States and is a major cause of disability. Almost 900,000 people die of cardiovascular disease in the U.S. each year. That is about 36 % of all U.S. deaths. Although cardiovascular disease is often thought to primarily affect men and older people, it is a major killer of women and people in the prime of life. More than half of all cardiovascular disease deaths each year occur among women.

About CRSTI

CRSTI is a nonprofit medical research organization created in 1998 by several groups of practicing cardiovascular and pulmonary specialists in North Texas. CRSTI’s mission is to foster and promote medical research and education that benefits the health of the community. The institute’s goal is to facilitate the physician’s ability to deliver state-of-the-art medical care, access new technology, and assess and improve quality clinical outcomes.

The current CRSTI program supports the efforts of more than 75 practicing cardiovascular specialists who are committed to advancing the science of cardiopulmonary medicine, improving patient care and helping to save lives.

CRSTI is actively investigating new drugs and devices for the treatment of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, congestive heart failure, coronary heart disease and heart valve disease. One example of the cutting edge technology currently being used by CRSTI is a minimally invasive aortic valve replacement surgery, which involves replacing the diseased valve without opening the chest or stopping the heart. This surgery may be an option for patients too ill to survive conventional open heart aortic valve surgery.

CRSTI is led by renowned cardiac surgeon Michael J. Mack, M.D., who is joined by colleagues from every discipline of cardiac, vascular and pulmonary medicine. The organization partners with world class clinical investigators, private practice colleagues and corporate program sponsors to offer pre-clinical and clinical trial management, education programs and continuous quality and outcomes improvement initiatives.

“Thanks to the continued generosity of the Dr. Bob and Jean Smith Foundation, CRSTI is able to focus on innovative clinical research initiatives and improve treatment options for individuals in our community affected by cardiovascular disease,” said Michael J. Mack, Chairman of CRSTI’s Board of Directors.

To make a donation or receive more information about CRSTI, contact Shannon Hoffman, CRSTI Executive Director at 972-566-6820 or visit www.crsti.org.

###