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DeCare International Appoints Chief Dental Officer for Ireland and Europe

Key position will lead oral health education efforts in Ireland

12th May 2004 — DeCare International, a leading U.S. dental insurance management company, announced today the appointment of Dr Gerard Gavin, as Chief Dental Officer for DeCare operations in Ireland and Europe. Dr Gavin will assist the DeCare family of companies in its expansion in Ireland and will play a key role in promoting oral health education to the general public to help them make sound dental decisions.

Dr Gavin joins DeCare International from the Department of Health and Children where he held the post of Chief Dental Officer advising the Minister and Department on all matters relating to oral health with specific responsibility for planning oral health services. This included the role of Dental Adviser to the General Medical Services Payment Board and the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs. Dr Gavin played a key role in the recent Forum on Fluoridation.

“As a dentist Dr Gavin brings experience and valuable insight into dentistry in Ireland,” said Michael F. Walsh, president and CEO of DeCare International. “Dr. Gavin will lead our efforts to raise the bar on oral health issues in Ireland. He is well respected in the local dental community and we look forward to working with him.”

Prior to Dr Gavin’s position with the Department of Health and Children, he was Principal Dental Surgeon at the Eastern Health Board Dublin North West Region with responsibility for planning, evaluation and delivery of dental services at the regional level.

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Dr Gavin was a member of EU Advisory Committee on the Training of Dentists 1996 – 2001 and a member of Council Of European Chief Dental Officers (CECDO) 1996 – 2004. He also sat on the CECDO Executive Board. CECDO provides a forum for the exchange of views on dental matters that affect member countries of the EU.

A Trinity College Dublin dentistry graduate, Dr Gavin has lectured at the Dublin Dental Hospital and School of Dental Science, Trinity College Dublin. Dr Gavin is widely published and is a member of the Irish Dental Association, British Dental Association and the International Association of Dental Research.

A global leader in oral health care management, DeCare and its subsidiaries manage more than \$810 million in dental insurance premium, covering 3.9 million individuals across 13,775 companies. DeCare is headquartered in Minnesota, with offices in New York, Iowa, Nebraska, Cork and Mayo.

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