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**Walsh Highlighted As One Of America's Top "Business 100" Leaders  
By *Irish America Magazine***

*Walsh to introduce private dental insurance in Ireland in 2004*

**MINNESOTA, USA. Dec. 30, 2003** — Michael Walsh, president and CEO of U.S. dental insurer DeCare International, was highlighted in the December issue of *Irish America* magazine as one of the top "Business 100" leaders in the United States. The 100 men and women, all of Irish descent, were recognized for their outstanding contributions and leadership in the American business world.

A native of Co. Mayo, Walsh is a 25-year veteran of the U.S. health and dental insurance industries. The company he leads, U.S.-based DeCare International, announced in September plans to introduce private dental insurance in Ireland in 2004, in partnership with VHI, Ireland's leading health insurer.

Under Walsh's tenure, the American company has grown from a locally based dental insurance company with about \$55 million in premiums, to a leader in the US dental insurance industry with over \$775 million in premium under management and 650 employees at the end of 2003. Major customers include several U.S. Fortune 500 companies such as Wal-Mart, Northwest Airlines, General Mills and the State of Minnesota's (government) employees.

Others named in the "Business 100" included senior executives at General Motors, Wal-Mart, Motorola, Estée Lauder, Xerox, Colgate-Palmolive, American Express and numerous other Fortune 500 companies.

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*Walsh - Business 100...Pg/2*

“I’m honored to be recognized with such a high caliber group of executives,” Walsh said. “It’s impressive to note the collective accomplishments of Irish men and women in the United States. I look forward to bringing DeCare’s success to Ireland by being the first to offer a unique, comprehensive dental insurance product to the Irish marketplace in 2004.”

With a doctorate in economics, Walsh served on the adjunct faculty in the graduate school of business and health administration at New York University (NYU) where he received the Professor of the Year award in 1986. He currently is a member of the University of St. Thomas Center for Irish Studies in Minnesota and the Irish American Cultural Institute, based in New Jersey.

Today, DeCare provides dental insurance under a number of brands to over 13,100 groups, representing 3.3 million individuals across the United States. Last year the organization processed more than 5.2 million dental insurance claims.

Headquartered in the United States, DeCare also has two Irish companies: DeCare Operations Ireland, a dental insurance claims processing facility in Co. Mayo, and DeCare Systems Ireland, an Internet software solutions company based in Co. Cork. Together, the two facilities employ more than 180 individuals.

***Mr. Walsh is currently in Dublin and is available for media interviews. To arrange for an interview, please contact Dimitri Senaratna at 001-651-994-5275 in the United States or by email at [dsenaratna@decare.com](mailto:dsenaratna@decare.com)***