

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Contact:**

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**OREGON HEALTH CARE QUALITY CORPORATION WELCOMES****NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MYLIA CHRISTENSEN**

Christensen and new leadership on the Board of Directors will continue advancing progress toward improving health care quality in Oregon

PORTRLAND, OREGON (December 14, 2010) – The Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation (Quality Corp) today announced that Mylia Christensen has joined the organization as the new Executive Director. Christensen is leading Quality Corp's efforts to improve health care quality in Oregon through better information and community-wide collaboration.

"As a multi-stakeholder organization, Quality Corp requires an executive director who understands the needs of everyone who gets care, gives care, and pays for care," says Ralph Prows, MD, Board Chair of Quality Corp. "Mylia has the exact combination of skills and experience to help advance quality improvement efforts in Oregon. Her commitment to ensuring high quality health care, along with her incredible leadership skills, makes her an excellent addition to the Quality Corp team."

Christensen joins Quality Corp with over 30 years of experience in Oregon's health care sector. She has worked in almost all facets of health care, from clinical settings to hospital and health care system management, strategic planning, public policy, and administration. Most recently, Christensen led the OHSU Center for Evidence-based Policy's national Medicaid and state agency collaborative focused on the development, translation, and dissemination of objective evidence to improve health policies and outcomes.

"Over the years, I have followed and admired the evolution, growth, and success of Quality Corp," says Christensen. "I'm excited by the opportunity to build on these successes to help achieve Quality Corp's vision for a healthy Oregon."

Prior to joining the OHSU Center for Evidence-based Policy, Christensen was a Vice President at AON Employee Benefit Consulting. She also served for six years as the Administrator of the State of Oregon's Public Employees' Benefit Board, responsible for Oregon's largest employee benefit program. In the early nineties Christensen was a Vice President of Operations and Regional Director for the Oregon Health Plan enrollment broker project with Benova, Inc. Her extensive experience also includes Director of Program Development and Physician Services for Legacy Portland Hospital System and the Administrator of Women's Health Services at Good Samaritan Hospital.

In January 2011, Pam Mariea-Nason, RN, MBA who currently serves as Vice Chair, will become Board Chair. Her move into the new role will provide continuity of leadership for the organization. Mariea-Nason's ten year tenure with Quality Corp and her broad background in health care will help further the multi-stakeholder perspectives on the Board. Mariea-Nason spent the past four years as the Health Policy and Community Engagement Director at CareOregon, and prior to that served for ten years as the Executive Director of a physician-hospital-community organization. Quality Corp's current Board Chair, Dr. Prows, Chief Medical Officer for Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon, will serve as the interim Vice Chair.

Grieg Anderson, a volunteer with the American Diabetes Association and Friends of the Oregon Diabetes Coalition, will become Treasurer. His predecessor, Michael Scully-Linder of Providence Health & Services, will be retiring from the Board after serving as Treasurer since Quality Corp's inception in 2000.

For more information about Quality Corp's Board of Directors, Committees, and other partners, visit www.q-corp.org/about.

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The Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation is a nonprofit partnership managed by a balanced Board of Directors, senior representatives from health plans, physician groups, purchasers, hospitals, consumers and government that work together to improve health care quality. Founded in 2000, Quality Corp's projects have demonstrated the value of working cooperatively. For more information, visit www.q-corp.org.