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**For Immediate Release**

**Cal eConnect Appoints Robert M. Cothren as  
Chief Technology Officer**

**Emeryville, CA** – November 21, 2010 – Robert M. (“Rim”) Cothren, PhD, has been appointed chief technology officer for Cal eConnect. Cal eConnect is executing on the \$38.8 million federal grant California received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to implement health information exchange (HIE) services and policies. Cothren will serve as principal for all the organization’s health information technology and exchange projects, effective November 15, 2011.

Cothren has more than 20 years experience in the health information and exchange field. He comes to Cal eConnect from Cognosante where he has been chief technology officer since 2008. Prior to that he held a number of leadership roles with Northrup Grumman beginning in 2003. During this time he served as an enterprise architect for CONNECT, the open-source gateway for participating on the Nationwide Health Information Network developed under the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) and the Federal Health Architecture program. The work supported the use of NwHIN for exchanging clinical data by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, the Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Social Security Administration.

He has been an advisor to ONC on current HIE architectures, approaches to governance of widespread HIE and standards development, and early analysis of the technical requirements for meaningful use of electronic health records. Most recently, he supported several states in developing their approaches to statewide HIE, including planning, technical assistance, privacy policy development, and technical assessment of early implementations. In California, he has worked on a number of HIE efforts including the State’s strategic and operational plans for statewide HIE and Cal eConnect’s architectural concepts.

“In addition to Rim’s outstanding technical and clinical knowledge and skills, he is an excellent collaborator, which is key to our work at Cal eConnect,” said Laura Landry, Cal eConnect interim CEO. “He has built strong relationships with California stakeholders through his work on State-sponsored HIE committees and as CTO of the California eHealth Collaborative. He understands the importance of creating services and policies that support clinicians in a wide range of settings around our state. Cal eConnect is extremely fortunate to have him as part of our team.”

“Cal eConnect has a vital role in the state to coordinate and leverage current HIE assets and investments, as well as provide leadership and support on technology solutions, policies, and sustainability,” Cothren said. “I look forward to working with the committed stakeholders and communities around the state to bring the benefits of health information exchange to all Californians.”

Cothren’s background also includes research and academia. Before joining Northrop Grumman, he was a member of the research staff at The Cleveland Clinic, acting as principal investigator on a number of applied research projects in the detection, diagnosis, and staging of cancer using novel approaches to optical analysis and medical imaging. He was an assistant professor in The Ohio State University's Biomedical Engineering Center, and helped found The Cleveland Clinic's Medical Imaging Lab.

Cothren received a PhD in Medical Engineering through a program sponsored jointly by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard Medical School.

For more information about Cal eConnect visit [www.caleconnect.org](http://www.caleconnect.org)

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#### **About Cal eConnect:**

Cal eConnect serves as the State’s governance entity for health information exchange. As such, Cal eConnect is responsible for meeting requirements set forth in the State’s grant agreement with the federal Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). As part of its agreement with the California Health and Human Services Agency, Cal eConnect is charged with enabling electronic health information exchange through governance, project management, and the development of policy, core technical infrastructure, a financial sustainability plan, and stakeholder engagement.