

# PRESS RELEASE

## Two Scripps-Affiliated Physician Organizations Agree to Collaborate

XiMED Medical Group and Scripps Mercy Physician Partners today announced plans to collaboratively focus on developing a clinically integrated physician organization. The two groups have a combined membership of approximately 1000 independent physicians in private practice. With the anticipated changes in health care, the groups have stated that clinical integration will help align incentives between hospitals and physicians and encourage them to provide effective and appropriate care.

Dr. Marc Sedwitz, Chairman of the XiMED Board, stated: "Our organizations are very compatible and share common goals. By working together, we will generate new energy and ideas to help our physicians and the patients that they serve."

Scripps Mercy Physician Partners formed VIP Health Connect two years ago to help physicians implement technology and to provide a portal for the secure communication of patient information.

"We're pleased that the starting point for our new collaboration is that XiMED is becoming an equity partner in VIP Health Connect," stated Michael Couris, M.D., Vice President of Scripps Mercy Physician Partners. "This provides another great opportunity for physicians to work alongside Scripps Health to improve quality of patient care and decrease costs."

According to Steven Higgins, M.D., XiMED's Vice Chairman, "Our new Joint Strategic Planning Committee will map-out the path for our successful collaboration."

Dr. Davis Cracraft, President of Scripps Mercy Physician Partners, summarized the situation: "We're excited about our potential to further help our doctors and their patients. We believe the collaboration of XiMED Medical Group and Scripps Mercy Physician Partners will benefit all San Diegans. We look forward to additional Scripps-affiliated physician organizations working with us to improve patient care."

For additional information please contact:

Ted Steuer, Executive Director  
Scripps Mercy Physician Partners  
619.260.7245

Tom Sounhein, CEO  
XiMED Medical Group  
858.452.1279

\*\*End\*\*