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For More Information Contact: Laura Kravet McMullen
(561) 994-1174 ext 205, lmcullen@nationalhealing.com
Maria Pierson/Savannah Whaley
Pierson Grant Public Relations (954) 776-1999

**NATIONAL HEALING CORPORATION AND THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCE
MILLION-DOLLAR PARTNERSHIP**

*OSU Wound Healing Research Program to develop multi-center clinical studies
to improve wound care for aging population*

BOCA RATON, Fla. - National Healing Corporation (NHC), a leader in disease management accounting for 20 percent of the nation's managed and outsourced wound healing centers, has signed a contract to be an official partner of the Wound Healing Research Program at The Ohio State University in Columbus. The goal of the new partnership is to improve ways of delivering cost-effective wound care to millions of Americans as rates of vascular diseases and diabetes, among the leading causes of chronic non-healing wounds, are rising among the nation's aging population.

The more than \$1 million groundbreaking agreement includes:

- clinical studies to be conducted at NHC Wound Healing Centers around the country,
- continued management of the NHC Wound Healing Center at The Ohio State University Hospital East and the establishment of a second NHC Wound Healing Center on the OSU campus opening in 2005,
- establishment and underwriting for the positions of a full-time research nurse and a part-time research coordinator at OSU and a full-time research coordinator at NHC,
- sponsorship of national and international wound healing conferences to be held every other year at Ohio State and
- \$150,000 in direct support.

News In Brief

National Healing Corporation, a privately held Florida-based company accounting for 20 percent of the nation's managed and outsourced wound healing centers, has become an official partner of the Wound Healing Research Program at The Ohio State University in Columbus. The more than \$1 million groundbreaking agreement includes clinical trials at NHC centers, the creation of a second NHC wound healing center at OSU to open in 2005, sponsorship of international wound healing conferences, personnel costs and direct support. The goal of the new partnership is to improve ways of delivering cost-effective wound care to millions of Americans as rates of vascular diseases and diabetes, among the leading causes of chronic non-healing wounds, are rising among the nation's aging population.

Please see reverse/page 1 of 2

NHC-OSU Partnership

"We believe this is the first instance of a company in the wound care industry partnering with a leading research institution," said NHC CEO James E. Patrick. "National Healing has been a pioneer in developing evidence-based treatment protocols to achieve above average heal rates and the next frontier is research in which we can employ our database of thousands of healed patients to study the effectiveness of new therapies. The field is poised to make tremendous advances and we are excited about the research being done by OSU."

The Wound Healing Research Program at OSU is led by professor Chandan K. Sen who has rapidly expanded the program to include interdisciplinary research that spans from the single cell to the patient.

"This partnership is central to enabling large clinical studies," Sen said. "Collaborations like this hold great potential for benefiting our patients and expanding our research capabilities."

The partnership is the latest in an ongoing relationship between the Florida-based firm and OSU. Ten to 12 times a year, the company presents the National Healing Institute on the OSU campus where physicians, nurses and technicians at NHC centers from around the country complete 60 hours of specialized training. The wound healing center staffs learn the company's proprietary clinical pathway which guides treatment protocols and incorporates the most current diagnostic tests, technologies and treatments available today.

In addition, the OSU Wound Healing Center at University Hospital East, under the direction of the Department of Surgery, is a National Healing Corporation Wound Center. Dedicated to the treatment of chronic non-healing wounds, the center uses many advanced techniques including hyperbaric oxygen therapy, growth factors, negative pressure therapy, and cultured skin.

Ohio State ranks sixth in the country among all universities for industry-sponsored research according to the FY2002 National Science Foundation Expenditure Survey, the latest survey available.

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The Ohio State University Medical Center has consistently been named one of America's best hospitals by U.S. News & World Report magazine. Also, in the nationally acclaimed directory of "Best Doctors in America," 145 of the 182 central Ohio doctors on the list are affiliated with OSU Medical Center. In addition, The Medical Center is widely recognized for programs in heart care, cancer, orthopedics, organ transplantation, rehabilitation, women's services and neuroscience. Professor Sen is the vice chairman of research for the Department of Surgery in The Ohio State University College of Medicine and Public Health and associate director of the Dorothy M. Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute.

About National Healing Corporation

Founded in 1996 and headquartered in Boca Raton, Fla., National Healing Corporation is a leader in disease management with a proven track record of results partnering with hospitals nationwide. NHC provides management services and the latest technology and expertise in wound healing to its client hospitals to establish quality wound healing programs. Specializing in the treatment of chronic and non-responsive conditions, NHC Wound Healing Centers offer hospital-based outpatient wound care and hyperbaric oxygen therapy as well as diabetes care. Committed to health care compliance and best practice medicine, NHC emphasizes these priorities in its extensive clinical and business training programs. Visit www.nationalhealing.com