

## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **ACR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION SELECTED AS RECIPIENT OF ASTRAZENECA CHARITY CHALLENGE AT VERIZON HERITAGE**

ATLANTA, GA – The ACR Research and Education Foundation (REF) was recently selected as a recipient of a \$50,000 donation through the AstraZeneca Charity Challenge at the Verizon Heritage, a PGA TOUR event contested in Hilton Head, SC.

The AstraZeneca Charity Challenge recognizes the leader entering the final round at 35 PGA TOUR events throughout the year with a \$100,000 donation to health care charities at each tournament, given in the name of the player and the tournament itself. Through the AstraZeneca Charity Challenge, AstraZeneca will donate \$3.5 million to healthcare related charities in 2006 and has donated \$9.7 million since the program's inception in 2004. The REF was selected from among many charities to receive this honor.

"In acknowledgement of their contributions to rheumatology training and research and their commitment to patient health, we are pleased to recognize the ACR Research and Education Foundation as a recipient of this year's AstraZeneca Charity Challenge," said Dana Settembrino, Brand Communications Manager, Nexium. "Giving back to local communities is an integral part of the AstraZeneca Charity Challenge and we're certain that the REF will use this donation to positively impact the lives of patients around the country."

"The REF is both pleased and grateful to receive this donation from the 2006 AstraZeneca Charity Challenge," comments James R. O'Dell, MD, REF President. "The ongoing goal of the foundation is to ensure that current and future generations of patients with arthritis benefit from the best trained rheumatologists armed with the best possible research. Donations like this one will help us achieve that goal."

Currently, the REF is working to establish a \$25 million restricted fund to ensure that the foundation is always able to support a comprehensive awards and grants portfolio. The generous contribution from AstraZeneca will be allocated towards that restricted fund.

The REF offers an extensive awards and grants program with research, training and education opportunities for clinicians, students, health professionals, researchers and academic institutions.

The mission of the ACR Research and Education Foundation is to improve patients' lives through support of research and training that advances the prevention, treatment and cure of rheumatic diseases.

The American College of Rheumatology (ACR) is an organization of and for physicians, health professionals, and scientists that advances rheumatology through programs of education, research, advocacy and practice support that foster excellence in the care of people with arthritis and rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.

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