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Dr. Regina Benjamin Joins Alere Board

Former U.S. Surgeon General brings wealth of experience in the worldwide advancement of preventative health care

WALTHAM, Mass., Dec. 12, 2013 /PRNewswire/ -- Alere Inc. (NYSE: ALR), the world's leading provider of point-of-care rapid diagnostic and health information solutions, announced today the appointment of Regina M. Benjamin, MD, MBA to the company's Board of Directors, effective immediately. From 2009-2013, Dr. Benjamin served as the 18(th) Surgeon General of the United States and chair of the National Prevention Council -- 17 cabinet-level Federal agencies that developed the road map for the Nation's health -- the National Prevention Strategy.

"We are thrilled that Regina Benjamin has joined the Alere Board of Directors," said Ron Zwanziger, Chairman and CEO of Alere. "Having served as America's Doctor, Regina brings invaluable experience and insights, as well as a longstanding commitment to improving health care outcomes -- particularly for underserved populations. Her leadership in public health aligns perfectly with Alere's development of breakthrough technologies that enhance patient care."

"I am delighted to join the Alere Board of Directors and to help guide the company's vision of putting the patient at the center of the health care delivery model," said Dr. Regina Benjamin, currently the NOLA.com/Times Picayune Endowed Chair of Public Health Sciences at Xavier University of New Orleans. "I congratulate Ron and his team on Alere's successes to date, and look forward to the company's continued growth."

From her early days as the founder of a rural health clinic in Alabama to her leadership role in the worldwide advancement of preventative health care, Dr. Regina Benjamin has forged a career that has been recognized by a broad spectrum of organizations and publications. In 1995, she was the first physician under the age of 40 and the first African-American woman to be elected to the American Medical Association Board of Trustees. Other past board memberships include the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, Catholic Health Association, and Morehouse School of Medicine.

Dr. Benjamin is a member of the Institute of Medicine and a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. She has been chosen as a Kellogg National Fellow and Rockefeller Next Generation Leader.

In 1998 Dr. Benjamin was the United States recipient of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights. She received the 2000 National Caring Award, which was inspired by Mother Teresa and was recognized with the Papal honor Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice from Pope Benedict XVI. In 2008, she was honored with a MacArthur Genius Award Fellowship. In 2011, Dr. Benjamin became the recipient of the Chairman's Award at the 42(nd) NAACP Image Awards.

Dr. Benjamin has a B.S. in chemistry from Xavier University in New Orleans, attended Morehouse School of Medicine, earned an MD degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and an MBA from Tulane University. She is the recipient of 22 honorary degrees.

About Alere

By developing new capabilities in near-patient diagnosis, monitoring and health information technology, Alere enables individuals to take charge of improving their health and quality of life at home. Alere's global leading products and services, as well as its new product development efforts, focus on infectious disease, cardiology, toxicology and diabetes. Alere is headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts. For more information regarding Alere, please visit www.alere.com.

SOURCE Alere Inc.

/CONTACT: Jackie Lustig, Director, Corporate Communications, Jackie.Lustig@alere.com 781.314.4009

/Web site: <http://www.alere.com>

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