

**July 28, 1999**

**ICON Reports Fourth Quarter and Full Year Financial Results**

**Fourth Quarter and Full Year Highlights**

- Fourth quarter net revenues increased 20% over the fourth quarter of fiscal 1998 to \$14.5 million, despite the impact of the scale-back of a major project, and for the year increased 32% over fiscal 1998 to \$55.8 million.
- Net income for the quarter increased 30% to \$1.6 million, and for the year increased 93% to \$7.5 million.
- Diluted earnings per share increased 39% for the year to 68 cents whilst remaining level for the quarter at 15 cents.
- Recruitment of staff recommenced in US at the end of the quarter following faster than expected replacement of the scaled back project.

Dublin, Ireland, July 28 -- ICON plc (Nasdaq: ICLR- news), a global full service clinical research organisation, headquartered in Dublin, Ireland, today reported the financial results for its fourth quarter and full year ended May 31, 1999.

For the fourth quarter ended May 31, 1999, net revenues were \$14.5 million, representing a 20% increase over net revenues of \$12.1 million for the same quarter last year. Income from operations for the fourth quarter was \$0.7 million, a decrease of 58% from the \$1.6 million reported for the fourth quarter last year. Net income for the quarter was \$1.6 million or 15 cents per share, on a diluted basis, compared with \$1.2 million or 15 cents per share last year.

For the fiscal year ended May 31, 1999, net revenues increased 32% to \$55.8 million, from \$42.1 million in the prior year. Income from operations for fiscal 1999 increased 11% from \$5.8 million to \$6.4 million. Net income for fiscal 1999 was \$7.5 million compared to \$3.9 million in fiscal 1998. As a result diluted earnings per share was 68 cents for fiscal 1999 compared to 49 cents for fiscal 1998.

Mainly as a result of capital expenditures of \$10.7 million during the year, the company's cash, short term debt and short term investments were \$44.8 million at May 31, 1999, compared to \$53.3 million at May 31, 1998. These capital expenditures were primarily related to new headquarters in the US and a major extension to the group headquarters in Ireland, together with significant expenditures on new IT systems. Days sales outstanding, comprising accounts receivable and unbilled revenue less payments on account, were 64 days at May 31, 1999 compared with 67 days at May 31, 1998.

"Although our final quarter was adversely impacted by the previously announced scale-back of a major project, I am pleased overall with the results for the full fiscal year and I am very encouraged by the new business activity we generated in the fourth quarter," commented Chairman Dr. Ronan Lambe. "As a result, with over 80% of the expected revenues of our current financial year already awarded, we recommenced our recruitment efforts in the US sooner than expected, and committed to opening a new office in Irvine, California to facilitate the expansion of our data management and clinical project management teams in the US. We also recently hired key employees for new offices in Israel and Singapore, both of which will commence operations within the next three months. These steps demonstrate our confidence in our global strategy and in the strength of our business."

ICON provides contract clinical research services to the pharmaceutical industry world-wide. It currently has 11 offices in eight countries and has approximately 650 employees world-wide.

Information in this press release contains "forward-looking statements". These statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially including, without limitation, actual operating performance, the ability to maintain large client contracts or enter into new contracts, the ability to manage the opening of new offices, and the ability to maintain client relationships. Additional factors that could cause actual results to differ materially are discussed in the Company's recent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including its Forms F-1 and S-8.

The financial information presented herein has been prepared in accordance with US GAAP.

**ICON plc**  
**Consolidated Income Statements**  
**Three months and Years ended May 31, 1999 and 1998**  
(Dollars, in thousands, except per share data)

	<b>Three Months Ended May 31</b>		<b>Six Months Ended May 31</b>	
	<b>1999</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1998</b>
Gross revenue	24,146	19,809	94,550	64,149
Subcontractor costs	9,626	7,721	38,749	22,011
<b>Net revenue</b>	14,520	12,088	55,801	42,138
<b>Cost and expenses</b>				
Direct costs	7,873	6,187	29,339	22,023
Selling, general and administrative	5,318	3,926	18,029	13,175
Depreciation and amortization	640	328	1,990	1,151
<b>Total costs and expenses</b>	13,831	10,441	49,358	36,349
<b>Income from operations</b>	689	1,647	6,443	5,789
Interest income (net)	641	140	2,620	199
<b>Income before provision for income taxes</b>	1,330	1,787	9,063	5,988
Provision for income taxes	(279)	551	1,511	2,103
<b>Net income</b>	1,609	1,236	7,511	3,885
<b>Net income per ordinary share</b>				
Basic	\$0.16	\$0.17	\$0.75	\$0.56
Diluted	\$0.15	\$0.15	\$0.68	\$0.49
<b>Weighted average number of ordinary shares</b>				
Basic	10,109,182	7,279,714	10,069,581	6,949,521
Diluted	11,039,256	8,296,750	11,078,777	7,966,739

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**ICON plc****Summary Balance Sheet Data****May 31, 1999 and 1998**

(Dollars, in thousands, except per share data)

	<b>May 31</b>	
	<b>1999</b>	<b>1998</b>
Cash, short term debt and short term investments	44,840	53,263
Accounts receivable, unbilled revenue less payments on account	16,671	11,725
Working capital	55,884	57,062
Total assets	93,768	88,578
Shareholders' equity	70,266	63,009