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Contact: Shari Nadel
LandersMadden
[212.292.8560](tel:212.292.8560) ext. 221
shari.nadel@landersmadden.com

**NATIONAL PHILANTHROPIC TRUST SELECTED TO ADMINISTER THE
DR. ROBERT C. ATKINS FOUNDATION**

- Dr. Robert C. Atkins' Estate Endows Foundation with Initial Bequest of \$40 Million -

May 25, 2004 (New York, NY) -National Philanthropic Trust (NPT), an independent public charity that manages more than \$500 million and has disbursed more than \$235 million in grants to charities throughout the US and around the world, today announced that they will administer the Dr. Robert C. Atkins Foundation, www.atkinsfoundation.org, as a Supporting Organization (also known as a Supporting Foundation). The Foundation received a partial bequest of \$40 million from the estate of Dr. Robert C. Atkins, authorized by Mrs. Veronica Atkins, Chair of the Foundation and wife of the late Dr. Atkins. The Foundation is also expected to receive substantial bequests from the estate in the future.

In 1999, Dr. Atkins and his wife Veronica established a private foundation. The grants made by the new, successor Foundation will follow in the tradition of the research formerly sponsored by the private foundation. One such grant recently disbursed is for a new Duke University Medical Center study of a very-low carbohydrate diet vs. a low glycemic diet for type II Diabetes.

This research follows on the heels of an earlier Duke study, recently published in the Annals of Internal Medicine, which found that a low-carbohydrate diet improves certain blood fat levels. The study was funded by Dr. Atkins through his private foundation and found that low-carb dieters had better improvements in triglycerides and HDL or "good" cholesterol and experienced greater weight loss (an average of 26 pounds compared with 14 for traditional dieters).

The successor Foundation has already disbursed a grant for the Dr. Robert C. Atkins Professorship in Medicine and Obesity Research Chair at Washington University. The Foundation has also approved funding of clinical studies using nutrition interventions to be conducted by Harvard University and Ben Gurion University, Johns Hopkins University, Rogosin Institute-Rockefeller University, and the University of Southern California.

As part of its stewardship of the Foundation, NPT will oversee all day-to-day administration, management, and grant making. Additionally, NPT has enlisted Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA) to assist in the Foundation's mission to create a legacy of value, impact and substance in the areas of nutrition, diabetes and illnesses stemming from obesity.

Mrs. Veronica Atkins, who has devoted herself to furthering her husband's legacy, made the following statement in delivering the grant. "I'm thrilled to authorize a gift of \$40 million from my husband's estate to the Foundation, and to entrust NPT as the steward of those funds.

"Achieving my husband's objective of improving health worldwide through support for the international science and research community is crucial. NPT has an unparalleled track record of successfully attaining philanthropic goals and the grant making expertise to realize the charitable mission of the Dr. Robert C. Atkins Foundation," she emphasized.

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“We are so pleased to have been selected as the partner of this generous Foundation,” said Eileen Heisman, President of National Philanthropic Trust. “Medical research is increasingly linking disease to diet, fitness and lifestyle. I believe that together National Philanthropic Trust and the Dr. Robert C. Atkins Foundation will play an important role in educating and changing the way people actively manage their health.”

About the Dr. Robert C. Atkins Foundation

Originally formed by Dr. and Mrs. Atkins over three years ago, the Dr. Robert C. Atkins Foundation has provided over \$3 million in grant money to institutions, including Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Ball State University, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Duke University Medical Center, Pennsylvania Hospital, University of Connecticut, and the University of Kansas. Under the direction of its Chair, Mrs. Veronica Atkins, the Foundation will position itself on the frontline of emerging ideas and groundbreaking research in nutrition and the management and treatment of obesity and associated diseases.

To achieve maximum impact, the Foundation is collaborating with leading professionals and organizations that share a common concern for important health issues including diabetes and the obesity epidemic in America. As part of this effort, the Foundation carefully monitors developments within a number of organizations, among them the American Heart Association, the American Diabetes Association, the North American Association for the Study of Obesity (NAASO), and the activities of Federal Government agencies such as the FDA and the National Institutes of Health. Foundation representatives participate regularly in conferences and other events, which seek to deepen the public understanding of the linkages between obesity, diabetes, and nutrition. It is an objective of the Foundation to compliment the ongoing efforts of others in combating this major public health crisis.

About National Philanthropic Trust

National Philanthropic Trust (NPT) is an independent public charity dedicated to increasing philanthropy in our society. Its mission is to promote and facilitate giving by individuals, families and organizations while expanding their knowledge in the field of philanthropy in general. Founded in 1996, NPT is one of the 100 largest charities in the United States. Since its inception, NPT has raised more than \$725 million in charitable assets, and made more than 6,500 grants to U.S. and international charities totaling \$235 million. Led by a national board of trustees and a team of professionals with more than eight decades of philanthropic experience, NPT has proven expertise in the stewardship of charitable donations.

NPT offers donor advised funds, supporting organizations, pooled income fund, and special field of interest funds to help donors with the administration and investment of their philanthropic dollars and give them freedom to recommend support to charities and causes that interest them. For more information, visit www.nptrust.org.

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