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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

### **THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE -- 100% DIGITAL ENT PRACTICE OPENS IN DC**

WASHINGTON, DC, March 26, 2001 — This month, three local physicians opened a new kind of medical office in Washington, DC. The Washington ENT Group is a premiere Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) practice located downtown that provides comprehensive diagnosis, medical and surgical treatment of adult patients with ENT and allergy-related problems.

The new office is unique because it is among the first in the area to “go digital”, pre-complying with federal government regulations that all medical offices be 100% “paperless” by 2002.

Dr. Catherine Picken, one of the Washington ENT Group partners, explains the significance of the system: “The combination of our knowledge, experience and quality care with state-of-the-art computer technology will allow us to spend more time with our patients. From the time a patient enters the office until they leave, their information is recorded and available to staff across a secure wireless network.”

“It will facilitate faster and more effective communications between patients, doctors, and staff, which means faster turnarounds on prescriptions, appointments, and lab results,” said Dr. Picken. “Combined, these advantages will help eliminate typical patient frustrations found in most medical practices, delivering a higher quality patient experience.”

“Our combined medical experience allows us to provide the highest quality care in general otolaryngology and in multiple subspecialty areas,” according to Dr. Thomas Troost, partner. “Our ability to engage new types of computer technology combined with advanced medical diagnosis and treatment systems means timelier results — period. That is what we are here for and that is what patients want.”

“In some cases, a timely and accurate diagnosis is critical for our patients’ treatment,” adds Dr Picken. “We made this investment in technology and training so they would receive faster and more precise quality care in a more enjoyable and professional atmosphere.”

According to Dr. Sandra Woll, the third physician of the practice, “as a graduating resident of Georgetown University Medical Center, I have considered offers to practice medicine throughout the country, but the Washington ENT Group’s forward-thinking approach, which combines experience and technology to better serve patients, made my final decision much easier.”

Catherine A. Picken, MD, FACS, Thomas Troost, MD, FACS, PhD and Sandra Woll, MD will make up the initial medical staff of the Washington ENT Group. The office began seeing patients on March 1, 2001. The Washington ENT Website can be found at [www.washingtonENT.com](http://www.washingtonENT.com).