

Collins Stewart expands Healthcare Research footprint
Firm Hires Brian M. Wright as Managing Director and Healthcare Research Analyst

New York, NY – July 20, 2009 – Collins Stewart, a leading independent financial advisory group, today announced that Brian M. Wright – who was named the #1 Healthcare Provider Analyst in **The Wall Street Journal's** 2008 “*Best on the Street*” analysts survey for 2007 stockpicking performance – has joined the firm as Managing Director and Healthcare Research Analyst where he will cover healthcare services for the firm’s U.S business. Wright will be based in New York.

“The state of the U.S. healthcare system is undoubtedly one of the most significant issues of our time,” said, John Abularrage, Chief Executive Officer of Collins Stewart’s North American Operations. “By adding an analyst like Brian to a healthcare analyst lineup that is already recognized for the outstanding quality of its research in this area, we are ensuring that we continue to meet and, equally important, anticipate the needs of our clients in this critical sector.”

“I’m excited about joining Collins Stewart,” Wright said. “The firm is global, well capitalized and has a terrific reputation for producing in-depth and insightful research by analysts who are not afraid to think out of the box. That’s going to be a real competitive advantage in allowing us to identify and take advantage of potential near and more intermediate changes and opportunities in the healthcare sector.”

Collins Stewart’s widely respected healthcare coverage also includes medical devices and diagnostics, biotechnology and specialty pharmaceuticals.

Prior to joining Collins Stewart, Wright was Vice President and Senior Managed Care Analyst at Banc of America Securities Inc. in New York. Before that, he was a Vice President and Senior Research Analyst at Jefferies & Co. Inc., where he was recognized as the #1 Healthcare Provider Analyst in **The Wall Street Journal's** “*Best on the Street*” analysts survey.

Wright, who worked several years for Bear, Stearns & Co., Inc., as an Associate Director of Research covering the managed care industry, previously held analyst positions with IBM’s Global Government Industry Division.

Wright holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Rockhurst College and a Master of Business Administration degree in Finance from the Kelley School of Business, Indiana University.

Collins Stewart’s U.S. equity research also includes: U.S. Banks, Lodging, Gaming, Leisure and REITS; Technology, Healthcare, Defense & Electronics/Communications and Energy.

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Collins Stewart plc is a leading independent financial advisory group listed on the London Stock Exchange. Collins Stewart plc employs 700 staff in 9 international locations and is organised around four operational divisions: Advisory, Corporate Broking, Securities and Wealth Management, all served by its unique research tool, Quest™. More information at www.collinsstewart.com

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