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LSUHSC ORGANIZES FREE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ACCESS AND EQUITY IN HEALTH CARE

New Orleans – LSU Health Sciences Center’s Department of Pediatrics, in conjunction with Children’s Hospital, New Orleans, and the University of Magna Graecia in Italy will hold a one-day symposium and workshop entitled “Access and Equity in Health Care: Two Strangers at the Door.” The event will take place on Saturday, March 15, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Children’s Hospital auditorium, 200 Henry Clay Avenue. Although the event is targeted primarily to health care professionals and students, the organizers are also encouraging students and professionals in the social sciences, policy makers and health care administrators to attend. The free symposium is also open to the public.

Initially participants will discuss theories of justice and right to health care, rationing, access and equity, and situations that perpetuate inequalities in health. Successful models that alleviate such inequalities will be presented and discussed in detail during the afternoon session. Also, participants will have an opportunity to learn and comment on plans for health care in the US proposed by presidential candidates.

“Speakers and participants will discuss disparities in health care and become familiar with policies for setting the health care agenda. Additionally, they will learn from successful models of health care delivery that provide equitable access to health care. Some of these models are being implemented in post-Katrina New Orleans,” notes one of the symposium organizers Dr. John Estrada, Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans.

The symposium will begin with introductory remarks from Cathi Fontenot, MD, Medical Director, Medical Center of Louisiana (former Charity Hospital); the Reverend Stephen Rowntree, PhD, SJ, Associate Professor at Loyola University in New Orleans; Alan Robson, MD, Medical Director, Children’s Hospital, New Orleans, and Alfonso Vargas, MD, Vice Chair of Pediatrics, and Director of International Programs, Department of Pediatrics at LSU Health Sciences Center.

The Morning Session, moderated by Alfonso Vargas, MD, Professor and Vice Chair for Education in the Department of Pediatrics at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, will

focus on social justice as it applies to health care. From 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. John Estrada, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans will discuss *Theories of Justice and Right to Health Care*. He will be followed by Nancy Berlinger, PHD, MDiv, and Deputy Director at the internationally known Hastings Center. From 9:30 – 10 a.m. she will talk about *Practical Issues of Rationing, Access and Equity*. From 10:00 – 10:30 two European professors will discuss health care in Europe which follows the principle of equal access. Alfred Tenore, MD, Professor and Chairman of Pediatrics at the University of Udine in Italy, and President of the European Board of Pediatrics will talk about *Equal Distribution of Health Care Resources in Europe*, and Jikta Patockova, MD, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology at Charles University in the Czech Republic will talk on the *Access to Care and its Cost in Eastern Europe*.

During the break-out sessions and lunch, attendants will have an opportunity to comment on actual cases related to the topic of the symposium. This session will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will be moderated by Gary Duhon, MD, MPH, and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans. The objective of these breakout sessions is for participants to develop skills that allow them to analyze social causes of health disparities.

The afternoon session moderated by Dr. John Estrada will start at 1:30 pm and will focus on successful models that have ameliorated disparities in health care. The session will comprise a panel presentation and general discussion. Each panelist will make a 15 minute presentation beginning with Sarah Horton, PhD, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Montana, who will present *Health Seeking Strategies among Uninsured Migrants: Recommendations to Improve Migrant Families' Health*. At 1:45 p.m. Paula Zeanah, PhD, MSN, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Pediatrics at Tulane Health Sciences Center will talk about *Nurse Home Visiting: Preventing Maternal Depression and Partner Violence*. At 2:00 p.m. Clayton Williams, MPH, Director, Division of Health Systems Development at the Louisiana Public Health Institute will talk about *Care for the Uninsured in Post-Katrina New Orleans*. At 2:15 pm Rosa Bustamante-Forest, RN, Program Director of the Mom and Baby Mobile Health Care will talk about *Crossing Borders: Integrating the Services of "Promotoras de Salud" with Advanced Practice Nursing*. An interactive session between the expert panelist and the audience is scheduled for 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. and then Dr. Estrada will present *Symposium Conclusions and Wrap Up* from 4:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Continuing medical education credit hours are available. To register or for more information, visit <http://www.medschool.lsuhscc.edu/pediatrics/march15symp.aspx> or call (504) 896-9263.

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