

American Diabetes Association to Host Sixth Annual Disparities Partnership Forum

Conference Will Address Health Challenges for High Risk Populations Living With Diabetes
ALEXANDRIA, VA--(Marketwired - Oct 10, 2013) - With nearly 26 million adults and children living with diabetes in the U.S., and another 79 million with prediabetes, the diabetes epidemic is one of the greatest public health crises our country is facing. While diabetes can affect anyone, the problem is greater for minority populations, which are disproportionately affected by the disease. African American, Latino/Hispanic, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native communities have a higher incidence of diabetes and are often less able to obtain the care they need to manage their disease. To help address these challenges, the American Diabetes Association will host its sixth annual Disparities Partnership Forum, *Overcoming Disparities: Diabetes Care in High Risk Populations*, beginning Oct. 21 in Washington, D.C. This two-day event will bring together a distinguished group of nationally-acclaimed health experts to collaborate and explore efforts that can improve diabetes care within minority communities, including Former Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Louis W. Sullivan, MD; **motivational speaker and clinical psychologist, Robin L. Smith, PhD**; community pioneer, Pedro Jose Greer, MD; U.S. Representative Raul Ruiz, MD (invited); celebrity guest speaker J. Anthony Brown; and representatives from the Association, including Chief Executive Officer, Larry Hausner, MBA; Chief Scientific & Medical Officer, Robert Ratner, MD, FACP, FACE; and President of Health Care & Education Lurelean B. Gaines, RN, MSN.

"As a leader in the fight to Stop Diabetes®, the American Diabetes Association is pleased to convene the Sixth Annual Disparities Partnership Forum," said Lurelean B. Gaines, RN, MSN, President, Health Care & Education of the American Diabetes Association. "Minority communities are at higher risk for developing diabetes but often lack access to the care they need. This forum will provide communities and health care leaders with the opportunity to address this and seek out constructive ways to raise awareness of what can be done to reduce the impact of diabetes so people can lead healthier lives."

The goal of the event is to identify where diabetes health care gaps exist for high risk populations, and to develop collaborative solutions to overcome the challenges that create them. The forum will facilitate dialogue among an interdisciplinary group, including health care professionals, community health educators, public health officials, policy makers, researchers and patient advocacy groups. Topics will address the current state of diabetes care in high risk populations, with input from multi-cultural patients and health care providers; how to improve diabetes knowledge and care; how to maximize community outreach; how to overcome health inequities in high risk populations; and how to implement solutions in the clinical setting. The Disparities Forum is sponsored by Medtronic Philanthropy. Additional educational support has been provided by Merck and Lilly USA. For more information, visit diabetes.org/disparities-forum.

The American Diabetes Association is leading the fight to Stop Diabetes® and its deadly consequences and fighting for those affected by diabetes. The Association funds research to

prevent, cure and manage diabetes; delivers services to hundreds of communities; provides objective and credible information; and gives voice to those denied their rights because of diabetes. Founded in 1940, our mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes. For more information please call the American Diabetes Association at 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383) or visit www.diabetes.org. Information from both these sources is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).