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NEWS RELEASE

AHA and NPSF Select 2011–12 Comprehensive Patient Safety Leadership Fellows

CHICAGO – July 12, 2011 – Nearly 30 clinical and administrative leaders, including two individuals from outside the United States, have been selected to participate in the 10th class of the AHA-NPSF Comprehensive Patient Safety Leadership Fellowship. The Fellowship is an intensive, yearlong professional development program for senior practitioners looking to increase their capacity to lead patient safety improvement initiatives and accelerate positive change in their organizations. The program is one of the nation’s foremost leadership development programs in patient safety.

“The accelerating pace of delivery system transformation for greater quality and efficiency makes a focus on patient safety improvement absolutely paramount for providers,” said Maulik S. Joshi, DrPH, president of the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) and senior vice president of research for the American Hospital Association (AHA). “This redesigned fellowship gives health care leaders the tools, the experience and the network they need to lead patient safety improvement initiatives in their organizations and be at the forefront in the rapidly changing environment.”

“The Comprehensive Patient Safety Leadership Fellowship is a wonderful opportunity for health care leaders who are committed to the delivery of safe, high-quality care,” said Diane C. Pinakiewicz, president, National Patient Safety Foundation. “The program provides the fellows with deep knowledge of the patient safety discipline and its associated science, competencies and leadership imperatives. The experience is rich, as are the relationships and networks that fellows develop in the process.”

In the course of one year, fellows participate in a series of learning retreats and webinars, and they design and implement an Action Learning Project with the goal of improving processes and spreading evidence-based safety practices that lead to better outcomes and performance within

their organizations. The fellowship activities for this new class begin this month and continue through May 2012.

Among the Action Learning Projects planned by the 2011–2012 fellows are:

- A fellow from a large academic medical center in the Midwest will be developing a comprehensive and optimized approach to medication reconciliation.
- A fellow at a community hospital in the East will be redeveloping the hospital's peer review process in order to foster a culture of safety among the medical staff.
- A team of fellows at a health system in the Pacific Northwest will focus on decreasing unnecessary repeat radiology examinations by improving physicians' access to examinations done outside the organization.
- Working with a local university, a fellow at a small rural hospital in the Northeast is designing and deploying a new process for reporting and analyzing safety incidents.
- A fellow at a large health system will be developing a systemwide patient safety scorecard to enable leaders to track and analyze data from a variety of sources and help identify appropriate strategies for improvement.

The AHA-NPSF Comprehensive Patient Safety Leadership Fellowship is sponsored by the American Hospital Association and the National Patient Safety Foundation, in partnership with the Health Research & Educational Trust, Health Forum, the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, and the Society of Hospital Medicine.

For more information or to nominate a colleague for future programs, contact the fellowship office at (312) 422-2933. Or visit www.ahafellowships.org for additional details.

About AHA

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the improvement of health in their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which includes more than 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and 38,000 individual members. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends.

About NPSF

The National Patient Safety Foundation® (NPSF) has been pursuing one mission since its founding in 1997—to improve the safety of care provided to patients. As a central voice for patient safety, NPSF is committed to a collaborative, inclusive, multistakeholder approach in all that it does. NPSF is an independent, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. To learn more about the work of the National Patient Safety Foundation, please visit www.npsf.org.

**American Hospital Association/National Patient Safety Foundation
Comprehensive Patient Safety Leadership Fellowship
2011–2012 Class**

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PeaceHealth
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Professor of Anesthesiology
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine
Jacksonville, FL

Chris Clarke, RN
Sr. Vice President, Clinical Services and
Tennessee Center for Patient Safety
Tennessee Hospital Association
Nashville, TN

Margaret Cousart, RN
Patient Safety Director
Tift Regional Medical Center
Tifton, GA

Audwin Garcia, MD
Physician
Henry Ford Hospital
Detroit, MI

William Gibson, MD
General Surgeon
Premier Surgical Associates
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Virginia Mason Medical Center
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Adirondack Medical Center
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Memorial Healthcare System
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Nephrologist; Medical Director of
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Virginia Mason Medical Center
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