HRET Selects Atul Gawande, MD as 2011 TRUST Award Recipient

CHICAGO – January 27, 2011 – The Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET), an affiliate of the American Hospital Association (AHA), has selected Atul Gawande, MD, MPH as the recipient of the 2011 TRUST Award. Established in 2003, the TRUST Award honors individuals who have exhibited visionary leadership in the health care field and who symbolize HRET’s mission of leveraging research and education to make a dramatic impact in policy and practice. Dr. Gawande is a general and endocrine surgeon at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Associate Professor at the Harvard School of Public Health and Harvard Medical School, and a staff writer at The New Yorker magazine.

“The Selection Committee praised Dr. Gawande for his surgical talents and for being an innovator in driving change through safe practices” said Al Stubblefield, president, Baptist Health Care and chair of the HRET Board of Trustees. “Dr. Gawande’s uniqueness as a writer to connect with the consumer and provider community is just one example of many showcasing his influence in the field.” HRET President Maulik S. Joshi, DrPH said, “Dr. Gawande’s writings on the use of surgical checklists, the costs of health care and health reform, and the overall quality of health care have elevated the social consciousness of these significant issues.”

Dr. Gawande is the director of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) campaign to reduce surgical complications and deaths through the institution of surgical checklists. In 2006, Dr. Gawande received the MacArthur Award for his work researching and defining modern surgical practices and medical ethics. From 1992 to 1993, he served as a senior health-policy adviser in Bill Clinton’s Presidential campaign and in the White House.

His most recent book, The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right, was published in December of 2009 and is a New York Times bestseller. Dr. Gawande won the 2010 National Magazine Award for Public Interest writing for his article in The New Yorker, “The Cost Conundrum.” In 2010, he was also named a top thinker for the 2010 Time 100 issue and was recognized by Foreign Policy as a Top 100 Global Thinker.
Dr. Gawande received his BAS from Stanford University, MD from Harvard Medical School, MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health, and MA in politics, philosophy, and economics from Oxford University.

HRET will honor Dr. Gawande at a reception on July 17 in San Diego, CA, during the AHA/Health Forum Leadership Summit.

###

**About HRET**

Founded in 1944, the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) is the not-for-profit research and education affiliate of the American Hospital Association (AHA). HRET’s mission is to transform health care through research and education. HRET’s applied research seeks to create new knowledge, tools, and assistance in improving the delivery of health care by providers in the communities they serve. For more information about HRET, visit, [www.hret.org](http://www.hret.org).

**About the TRUST Award**

The TRUST Award is presented annually by HRET to a health care leader who has made significant contributions to improving our health care delivery system. Previous recipients include David Lawrence, MD, retired chairman and CEO, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. (2003); Don Berwick, MD, president and CEO, Institute for Healthcare Improvement (2004); Brent James, MD, vice president for medical research, Intermountain Health Care (2005); Gail Warden, president emeritus, Henry Ford Health System and former chairman of HRET and the American Hospital Association (2006); Janet Corrigan, PhD, president and CEO of the National Quality Forum (2007); Robert H. Brook, MD, ScD, FACP, vice president at the RAND Corporation and director of RAND Health (2008); David Satcher, MD, PhD, director of the Center of Excellence on Health Disparities and the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine (2009); and Glenn D. Steele, Jr., MD, PhD, president and CEO of Geisinger Health System (2010).