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COPD Foundation and American Association for Respiratory Care Launch COPD Educator Course Series

Miami, FL (May 6, 2009)—The COPD Foundation and the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) launched a COPD Educator Course for respiratory therapists (RTs); the Educator Course is a series of one-day training seminars for RTs, which will take place at several cities across the nation.

“The COPD Foundation is excited about this collaboration with the AARC and to be able to cosponsor an educator series that will provide these respiratory therapists with the skills and up-to-date knowledge of COPD management,” said John W. Walsh, President of the COPD Foundation.

The first course takes place in Miami Beach, FL; future date and locations are TBD. The COPD Educator Course is designed for the clinician who manages patients with COPD in all health care settings. Its goal is to equip the clinician with the tools they need to manage and educate patients.

In coordination with this course, the COPD Foundation developed a **Big Fat Reference Guide (BFRG)** on COPD; this guide will have in-depth information designed for patients, but informative for health professionals, about disease and health management. A CD of this guide will be distributed to all COPD Educator Course attendees, but will also be available online to the general public.

The one-day course covers topics such as review of diagnosis, treatment, co-morbidity of COPD and Alpha 1 Antitrypsin Deficiency, successful techniques to improve communication with patients and family, assessment of the patient, age and cultural appropriate education techniques, overview of medications and devices used to deliver them, and smoking cessation intervention.

Course faculty include: Bill Galvin, MSEd, RRT, CPFT, AE-C, FAARC from Gwynedd Mercy College, Karen L. Gregory, MS, APRN-BC, CNS, RRT, AE-C, Oklahoma Allergy and Asthma Clinic, Mary Hart, RRT, AE-C, Martha Foster Lung Care Center Baylor University Medical Center, Tom Kallstrom, BS, RRT, AE-C, FAARC, American Association for Respiratory Care, Patricia B. Koff MEd, RRT, University of Colorado Hospital, and Robert A. Sandhaus, MD, PhD, FCCP Professor of Medicine, National Jewish Health Medical Director and COPD Foundation.

This program has been approved for 7.75 hours of continuing education credit (CRCE) for RTs.

Updates on courses and locations can be obtained by visiting the AARC website (www.aarc.org) or COPD Foundation online events calendar (www.copdfoundation.org/news/events).

About COPD:

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is the 4th leading cause of death in the U.S. and is expected to become the third by 2020. COPD is the only one of the leading causes of death which is still increasing in mortality. The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute estimates that 24 million Americans have COPD, but only half of them are diagnosed; the other 12 million don't know they have COPD and are not receiving appropriate treatment. The cost of COPD health care for American taxpayers in 2007 is estimated at \$42.6 billion.

About the COPD Foundation:

The COPD Foundation is dedicated to developing and supporting programs which improve the quality of life through research, education, early diagnosis, and enhanced therapy for persons whose lives are impacted by Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

The COPD Foundation has several programs dedicated to informing, empowering, educating, and engaging individuals affected by COPD, including both diagnosed and undiagnosed individuals, their families and friends, and their medical professionals. The Mobile Spirometry Unit (MSU) has traveled across the nation, offering free lung tests and educational materials to over 17,000 individuals who were at risk or symptomatic for COPD. The Foundation distributes a quarterly magazine, *COPD Digest*, to over 200,000 individuals with COPD, family members, caregivers, medical professionals, and organizations in the COPD community. The Foundation also created a toll-free C.O.P.D. (Call Our Patients Direct) Information Line—staffed by volunteers with COPD—is open five days a week and offers support and educational materials to all callers. For more information, please visit: www.copdfoundation.org.

About the American Association for Respiratory Care

The AARC is a not-for-profit professional association representing more than 37,000 members. Members include respiratory therapists, nurses, physicians, pulmonary laboratory technicians, home health providers, home medical equipment suppliers, industrial sales representatives, manufacturers of respiratory care equipment, and respiratory patients. A network of 50 state societies involves members in local and state activities. For more information, please visit: www.aarc.org.

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