



Global Leaders to Address Language Access at the 7th Annual National Medical Interpreter Certification Open Forum in Portland, Oregon, May 3, 2013

Portland, Oregon: January 31, 2013

Medical interpreters are coming together as never before in 2013. In packed rooms with potentially as many as seventy languages represented, medical interpreters are pooling their collective thought, energy, and influence to advance this burgeoning profession, with the simple, powerful goal of improving language access for patients through National Certification, thus connecting patients with vetted, professional interpreters. In that spirit, leaders, advocates and other stakeholders in the medical interpreting industry will travel from across the globe to convene on Friday, May 3, 2013, in Oregon for the 7th Annual National Medical Interpreter Certification Forum. The annual forum is now an industry advocacy staple, with more than a hundred stakeholders attending the event every year. Please visit

<http://www.imiaweb.org/conferences/may.asp>

The annual event creates an inclusive, transparent and collaborative process that crosses state lines and industry sectors. It brings together representatives of various state and national interpreter associations, interpreters and interpretation service providers, advocates and policy makers, state officials, educators, trainers, hospitals and healthcare organizations, as well as international stakeholders who are watching the U.S. medical interpreter profession's progress toward national certification as the new qualifying standard for medical interpreters.

The event, which is open to all hospitals, government agencies, interpreters and other stakeholders, will include guest speakers and discussions that address the advancement of national certification, best practices in the profession and perspectives from industry leaders. Attendees will share advocacy updates, the status of educational programs, and new opportunities for involvement in shaping the future of medical interpreting.

Oregon was chosen as the 2013 host state due to its significant history in medical interpreter certification efforts. Dr David Cardona, MD, MPH, Coordinator of the Health Care Interpreter Program, Oregon Health Authority, Office of Equity and Inclusion for the State of Oregon, states, "Ensuring quality of access to health care for clients with limited English proficiency remains a high priority for all of us at the Oregon Health Authority as we work towards better health for everyone in our state. As we implement health system transformation, I am confident that those working for the newly created Coordinated Care Organizations will find this conference critical in learning more about national certification trends, improving language access by using certified interpreters, and ultimately bringing better health at lower costs for all they serve."

Coinciding with the press announcement of the May Meeting is the milestone announcement that the National Board for Medical Interpreter Certification has received NCCA accreditation. Tina Peña, National Board Chair, states, "NCCA accreditation was one of the objectives the National Board set for itself at the very outset. The legitimacy of our program and process has now been recognized. With this recognition, we are confident that many more Certified Medical Interpreters in the nation will join those already serving in hospitals and clinics around the country and abroad." Medical interpreters will gather in Oregon to dialogue and take action on this and other developments among diverse stakeholders.

Registration has been set at rates of \$125 standard, \$85 for interpreters, and \$50 for students. Space is limited. Online registration will open at <http://www.imiaweb.org/conferences/mayreg.asp>.

The event will be followed on Saturday and Sunday, May 4-5th, 2013, by the IMIA Boot Camps. A press conference will be held as well. For more information about the 7th Annual National Medical Interpreter Certification Forum, please visit:

<http://www.imiaweb.org/conferences/may.asp> Contact: Abbott RF Thayer, IMIA Outreach Director, outreach@imiaweb.org