



January 14, 2012

The IMIA Broadens its Educational Scope in 2012 by Offering New Programs and Expanding the Annual Trainers and Administrators Symposia

Boston, MA – With a vast cadre of offerings, the organization geared to meet the needs of a variety of stakeholders. *“This year the variety of programs is unprecedented,”* stated Lola Bendana, President of IMIA. *“I am certain that there will be something to meet everyone’s educational and professional development needs. We feel that this is our responsibility as a professional association.”*

So what is new in 2012? **The Lifelong Webinar Series**, which started in 2010 to promote free online CEU standard educational opportunities to members, has expanded from 3 to 11 workshops in 2012, and now is open to non-members. *“We have a highly skilled cadre of expert presenters, bringing the best to interpreters worldwide, whether they are members or not. One cannot say that there is nothing in their area or language, as these workshops are online & language neutral,”* stated Claudia Falla, Chair, Education Division. For information on topics, go to: <http://www.imiaweb.org/conferences/learningseries.asp>. *“It is important for interpreters to have access to CEU quality educational workshops that allow them to accumulate the 30 contact hours needed to recertify every five years,”* stated Rita Weil, Chair of the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters.

The **IMIA 8-Hr Medical Terminology Boot Camp™** is now coming to several cities in 2012. *“We have expanded the program so that more interpreters can benefit from these great courses without needing to travel,”* stated Anita Coelho, IMIA Vice President. We also developed our first 4-Hour Advanced Boot Camp™ Course titled **Interpreting in Difficult Situations – From Death to Profanity™**. *“These advanced level courses will meet the gap for advanced level workshops in the field. They are not for the novice interpreter,”* stated Alvaro Vergara-Mery, PhD, IMIA faculty member. To see more information go to: <http://www.imiaweb.org/conferences/bootcampseries.asp>

Another exciting and new development is the partnership between the IMIA and Cross Cultural Manhattan to enable medical interpreters to take the 1 hour online nationally acclaimed **Quality Interactions Non-Clinical Cultural Competency Training**, designed for professionals such as medical interpreters, at a discount. The IMIA is the proud exclusive provider of this program for medical interpreters. *“The IMIA values cultural competency and it is often not being taught in medical interpreting programs as it is a completely different skillset. Every interpreter should have a Culturally Competency certificate, and this program will enable them to do so, easily from the comfort of their homes,”* stated Izabel Arocha, M. Ed, CMI, Executive Director of IMIA. The Certificate, which offers IMIA CEUs should be uploaded to their professional IMIA registry profile. Go to: <http://www.imiaweb.org/education/crossculturaltraining.asp> for more information on how to enroll.



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION

Leading the advancement of professional interpreters

In the Fall, the IMIA will launch the **Language Access Leadership Academy**. The mission of the Leadership Academy is to reduce health disparities and transform the language access field, by developing and supporting our future leaders – ethical and innovative leaders who will advocate for language access for all language minority patients. *“We want leaders that will give back to the field to reduce disparities related to language access,”* stated Ira SenGupta, Executive Director of CCHCP, Cross Cultural Health Care Program, and one of the faculty members of the Academy. This will be an 8-month cohort blended learning program with a low enough student to faculty ratio to enable a mentoring environment and the development of relationships for an alumni network to last a long time.

After several years of offering free IMIA Trainer Conference Call Workshops to member interpreter trainers, in 2009, the IMIA decided to develop a **Trainers Symposium**. This one-day event took place in New Brunswick, NJ, followed by Las Vegas, NV, and in 2012 trainers will meet in New York City. Again the IMIA has been asked to expand its programming so this year the organization will offer a two-day event, May 31-June 1, with interactive forums in addition to expert presentations. *“The Trainers Symposium is an important event, the only annual event in the field for trainers to get together and learn about best practices. The IMIA has been working in the past few years to standardize the training of medical interpreters,”* stated Eric Candle, Adjunct Professor of Medical Interpreting, Licensed Trainer of Medical Interpreters and also IMIA Board member and National Chairs Liaison. To get more information on event go to:

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

What else is going on for trainers? The **2012 Trainers Calls** schedule is unbeatable. Trainers like the format of knowing what topics will be discussed and having a low-technology way of connecting to each other. Participants can join from anywhere by phone and participate in the interactive style of these conference calls. No powerpoints, no long presentations. The format involves a speaker giving a short presentation about a topic with most of the time devoted to discussion of strategies and ideas.

In 2010, IMIA added the Language Access Administrators Symposium to its cadre of events, with the first taking place in Miami, FL. This symposium focuses on the learning needs of administrators who hire interpreters as there had not been a face-to-face forum in the past. 2012 promises to be a great year for administrators with the **2012 Administrators Symposium** taking place in Orange, CA, hosted by UC Irvine Medical Center. *“We know this will event will bring much needed expertise and strategies to those of us who run interpreter services,”* stated Karen , Manager of Interpreter Services at UC Irvine Medical Center. *“We are hoping to see an unprecedented number of participants this year from around the country,”* she added. Experienced administrators will present the latest for those who want to learn and improve delivery systems. These events were the first to target specifically the secondary positions of the medical interpreter field, those of medical interpreter trainer and administrator. *“Our Interpreter Service Provider (ISP) Division and Trainer Division are really creating a home for administrators and trainers, respectively,”* said Paul Penzo, Chair of the ISP Division. To get more information on event go to:

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



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The **International Conference on Medical Interpreting** is growing stronger and widening its base. After 15 years in Boston, the conference planners are ready to venture to other cities in the future. It's first stop will be the breathtaking views of Miami Beach, in February 2013. "Moving it out of the Fall season was another big decision we had to make. For more:

<http://www.imiaweb.org/conferences/past.asp> The International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) was the first organization to offer an annual national conference for medical interpreters, since 1996. *"In those days, the only conference available was the ATA, which at the time was highly an organization for translators. There was nothing for medical interpreters, translators didn't even know we existed,"* said Cynthia Schenck, President of North Shore Medical Interpreters, and an old time member of the organization. This conference, the largest of its kind, continues to be the event where the latest technologies and trends are presented for this healthcare interpreter specialization.

