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**“MEDICAL INTERPRETERS SAVE LIVES IN MANY LANGUAGES!”™
IMIA CONFERENCE - JANUARY 16-19, 2014**

The 2014 International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) Conference is the largest in the industry of healthcare interpreting and will provide a forum to hear national and international perspectives on the emerging practices of providing quality interpreter educational services geared for healthcare.

This will be the second year the IMIA organizes an annual conference outside Massachusetts. *“Last year we surpassed our expectations. We heard interpreters and they want this conference to move around,”* said Izabel Arocha, IMIA Executive Director. This IMIA-led three-day event has expanded to become a four-day event, due to the number of activities that take place. Texas has a burgeoning medical interpreter community, so it seemed appropriate to take the conference to this state, which is also significant in its efforts to identify requirements for medical interpreters. www.imiaweb.org/conferences/2014conference.asp

There will be important panel discussions addressing educational standards, technology, certification, and language access, as well as over 40 workshops for interpreters to select from. *“This year’s theme is Education, and it will allow us to explore the importance of quality education when bringing newcomers into our field,”* stated Claudia Falla, Chair of the IMIA Education Committee.

“From an employer’s perspective, interpreter education is very important; that is why our leadership financially supported our entire interpreter team’s process to become CMI’s, and in 2011 we became the first team in the nation to have all staff members nationally certified. Education is the key to professionalization,” stated Noemy Cochran, Certified Medical Interpreter (CMI)-Spanish at Memorial Hermann–Texas Medical Center.

The Houston Interpreters and Translators Association (HITA) thru its President Steven Marzuola, Spanish-English Technical Translator and Interpreter, will be sharing welcoming remarks at our conference and stress the importance of the role of the Medical Interpreter and Translator in Houston and the Texas Medical Center.

The Texas Society of Interpreters for the Deaf (TSID) is also collaborating for a successful event for both signed and spoken language interpreters. There is a need for medical interpreters in many languages, and the demand continues to outstrip supply. *“When speaking of the healthcare industry, we have more similarities than differences,”* said Nora McAllister, TSID President.

About IMIA

The International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) is an umbrella association that promotes all standards and best practices in the field of medical interpreting. As an international non-profit organization of medical interpreters, it represents over 2,100 practicing medical interpreters as the ultimate experts in medical interpreting and as the best option for equitable care for minority language patients around the world, promoting language access as a human right. www.imiaweb.org

About HITA

The Houston Interpreters and Translators Association is a Houston-based membership corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Texas. Its mission is to promote the continuing education and development of translators and interpreters, publicize professional standards and practices, cooperate with other associations; and promote awareness of the profession among the public in general. www.hitagroup.org

About TSID

TSID was established in 1963 as the Texas Society of Interpreters for the Deaf. As the first professional organization of interpreters in the nation, TSID has been one of the leaders in this field. TSID is a non-profit organization established for the purpose of developing and strengthening the profession of interpreting in Texas. <http://tsid.org>