



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL
INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION
Leading the advancement of professional interpreters

Interpreter Trainers to Convene in Las Vegas, Nevada for the Second National Symposium on Medical Interpreter Education

June 9-10, 2011

April 15, 2011 – Las Vegas, NV

Trainers, instructors, language coaches, and curriculum designers of medical interpreting educational programs will gather at the **University Medical Center of Southern Nevada (UMC) on Thursday and Friday, June 9 & 10, 2011 for the Second Annual National Symposium on Medical Interpreter Education.** “There is a huge demand for best practices, standards, and an accreditation program for the medical interpreter educational programs. There is also a need for training opportunities for all the professionals working in medical interpreter education,” said Izabel Arocha, M.Ed., Executive Director of the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA), the organizer of this event.

Registration is open for this year’s event, which counts on a tour of the University Medical Center of Southern Nevada on Thursday, June 9, from 3-5pm, while the main program will take place from 8:45am – 5:30pm on Friday, June 10. “Symposium participants will be invited to take on a more active role in national initiatives by actually joining focus groups to discuss important components of interpreter education,” said Rose Long, IMIA Treasurer and Director of the Bridging the Gap Interpreter Training of the Cross Cultural Health Care Program. “The idea of bringing together the best minds in Medical Interpreter Training and Education proved to be very timely and productive at our inaugural event in 2010. It was exciting to watch a high level of participants' engagement and their commitment to the advancement of best training practices. We hope each year we exceed expectations,” said Eric Candle, NY State Rep, IMIA.

Participants will learn about the latest best practices and trends in medical interpreter instruction, and how to overcome the current challenges of interpreter education professionals. Key topics will include an overview of the different types of assessment tools available for third-party testing, and the latest updates, national certification, online training, and language coaches. There will also be focus groups discussing the upcoming IMIA Accreditation Standards for interpreter training programs. "It has always been my desire to expand and make our emerging career as professional medical interpreters more visible and that's why I am thrilled to bring this event to southern Nevada and especially to the city of Las Vegas," Alvaro Vergara-Mery, PhD, CMI, IMIA Nevada Chapter Representative, IMIA Representative to the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters (NBCMI) and NITA Board member.

“We are happy to host this event, and most especially participate in the professionalization and development of standards and best practices for medical interpreter trainers,” said Sylvia Vazquez, Interpreter Services Manager at UMC. This National Trainers Symposium will be organized by the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA), with the collaboration of the Nevada Interpreters and Translators Association (NITA) and will be hosted by University Medical Center of Southern Nevada (UMC). For more information about the event, please go to:

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

About the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA)

The IMIA is an umbrella association that promotes all standards and best practices in the field of medical interpreting. As an international trade association of medical interpreters, it represents over 2,000 practicing medical interpreters as the ultimate experts in medical interpreting. It is also the only national trade association of medical interpreters in the US, and is an official active member of FIT, the Federation of Interpreters and Translators, an international organization comprised of trade associations of interpreters and translators worldwide. It is a partner member of AILIA, the Languages Industry Association, headquartered in Canada. IMIA developed the first code of ethics, standards, annual conference, and certification for medical interpreters and continues to be a pioneer in the field with its recent work to develop the first

Interpreter Educators Code of Ethics and National Education Registry. Most current work involves developing an accreditation for medical interpreter training program. (www.imiaweb.org)