



### Language Access Leadership Academy Opens Registration for 2013-2014 Academic Year

June 3, 2013 – International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) - Boston - USA - The International Medical Interpreters Association is happy to announce the opening of registration of a new program that aims to educate those that want to lead in the field of language access in health care. “The Leadership Academy provides a specialized program that enhances participants’ knowledge and skills in our sector,” said Ira SenGupta, IMIA Board, and Co-Chair of the Academy. “We are excited to raise the number of individuals that are going to push this agenda forward in the next few years.” The 8-month program runs from September through May each year, and runs with 1.5 hour online sessions every two weeks. “This year we will add a few conference calls to discuss case studies in the field,” added Izabel Arocha, Executive Secretary of IMIA and Co-Chair of this program. Individuals who complete the program will become Leadership Academy Fellows and will have annual reunions and networking opportunities after the program. Registration is open and will close on August 15th. “I had the opportunity to participate in the first Leadership Academy Language Access program Sep 2012 - May 2013. As a student, I enjoyed an ample window of time to share ideas and best practices with the rest of the cohort. Also, we had some best-in-their-field presenters talking to us and answering our questions. I believe that each of us gained a wealth of knowledge and is more focused on her/his leadership path as a direct result of attending this program. I highly recommend it to any leader in language services,” stated Mohamad Anwar, CHI, M.Sc., IMIA Board of Directors and Certified Interpreters Division Chair.

Who is this program for? Some interpreter managers state that they do not have all the information or strategy at their fingertips to convince their own hospital administrators of the need for more interpreters or for greater access. Individuals in community service organizations are also looking for greater skills and knowledge to further their work in advocating for greater language access in their organizations. Medical interpreters who wish to make a difference can benefit from this program. Last, interpreter association leaders who also wish to further their abilities in leadership will find this 8-month program enlightening. “IMIA has brought great deal of recognition to the field of medical interpretation over the years. Now it is exciting to see the organization helping to empower more leaders within the field to take action towards improving the care of linguistic minorities,” said Alexander Green, MD, who is also on the advisory board of the IMIA. “Our field, more than ever, requires leaders with the tools and vision to make change a reality. Leadership is about the impact we have while doing world class work, playing at our peak passion, delivering results, transforming problems into great achievements and leaving the world better than we found it. However, before we improve the world, we need to improve ourselves by acquiring the necessary leadership tools. The IMIA Leadership Academy is a wonderful opportunity to those committed to go to the next level,” said Lola Bendana, President of the IMIA.

To learn more about the program, go to: <http://www.imiaweb.org/education/leadershipacademy.asp>.

The IMIA is pleased to unveil the 2013 Administrators and Trainers Symposia program, for the first time offered at one venue on consecutive days to allow cross participation between these interrelated fields. The IMIA listened to its membership and has organized the 2013 Symposia to meet the needs of a variety of stakeholders. The event was built around the theme “Improving Minority Language Access Quality: Preparing 21st Century Minority Language Medical Interpreters”.

“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.” These symposia are designed to allow administrators and trainers to meet, discuss, and share best practices about medical interpreter management and education. The IMIA is very grateful to Nouria Belmouloud, Supervisor of Duke International Patient Services at Duke University Medical Center for hosting this event.



The Administrators Symposium will be held on September 6th, 2013, and the Trainers Symposium will be held on September 7th and 8th, 2013. This combined event will be hosted by Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina, <http://medschool.duke.edu/>. The Language Access Administrators Symposium focuses on the learning needs of vendors, hospitals, non-profits, and other organizations and administrators who hire interpreters and provide interpreter services, also called Interpreter Service Providers (ISPs). Experienced administrators will present the latest for those who want to learn and improve delivery systems. The Trainers Symposium was first offered in 2010, initially as a one-day event and has taken place in New Brunswick, NJ, Las Vegas, NV, New York City in 2012, and now Durham, North Carolina in 2013. “The Trainers Symposium is the only annual event in the field for trainers to get together and learn about best practices. The IMIA has been working for several years to standardize the training of medical interpreters. The Symposia theme of Minority Language Access is compelling. With the formation of the IMIA Minority Languages Division, minority language interpreters will have more opportunities for training, peer-support, employment, and continuing education. The Symposium is one of the events we encourage them to attend. This is also an opportunity for all interpreters and trainers to learn about the important work that the Accreditation Task Force and Advisory Board are doing regarding standards for training programs,” stated Marlene Obermeyer, IMIA Minority Division and IMIA Accreditation Chairperson.

### **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 2,000 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. IMIA promotes language access as a human right. The IMIA has been professionalizing the field for over 25 years, developing the first code of ethics, standards of practice, national and now international conference on medical interpreting, and national certification. The latest accomplishments include developing the first code of ethics for interpreter educators and an accreditation for medical interpreter educational programs. The IMIA contains the only free international registry of medical interpreters, where they can be found by language, state, or country. [www.imiaweb.org](http://www.imiaweb.org)