



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL
INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION
Leading the advancement of professional interpreters

**Over 70 Interpreter Trainers Convened in New Brunswick, New Jersey
for the First National Symposium on Medical Interpreter Education**

Save the Date: June 10, 2011, Las Vegas!

New Brunswick, June 14, 2010 — Trainers, instructors, language coaches, and curriculum designers of medical interpreting educational programs gathered on the New Brunswick, New Jersey campus of Rutgers University on Saturday, June 12, 2010 for the first annual National Symposium on Medical Interpreter Education. The day was intense with no breaks, yet trainer participants were hungry for more. “There was so much important information to share with trainers, it was overwhelming yet welcomed and appreciated. We believe most left with an enormous amount of new tools for their educational practice,” said Izabel Arocha, M.Ed., President of the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA), the sponsor of this event.

Symposium participants were invited to take a more active role in national initiatives by joining various projects that are in progress,” said Hank Dallmann, medical interpreting trainer at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. “The idea of bringing together the best minds in Medical Interpreter Training and Education proved to be very timely and productive. It was exciting to watch a high level of participants' engagement and their commitment to the advancement of best training practices,” said Eric Candle, NY State Rep, IMIA.

Participants learned about the latest best practices and trends in medical interpreter instruction, and how to overcome the current challenges of interpreter education professionals. Key topics discussed included an overview of the different types of training programs and venues in which interpreter education takes place, the latest updates on different technologies, training for national certification, internships and practicums, applying for CEU credits, a national trainers' code of ethics, and the upcoming IMIA Accreditation Standards for interpreter training programs. Jennifer Edwards, medical interpreter, won the Essay Contest and inspired colleagues with her reading. Perhaps the greatest achievement of this event was the sense of camaraderie between interpreter educators, who were willing to share their strategies and commitment for the improvement of medical or healthcare interpreter education.

The National Symposium was hosted by Rutgers University and organized by the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA). “This first national symposium of trainers has enhanced our skills as trainers, strengthens our network (of trainers) and most especially benefits the professionalization of medical interpreters. It is imperative that we continue to do this for the advancement of our field,” said Rose Long, Deputy Director of Cross Cultural Health Care Program.

Next year the event will be on June 10, 2011, hosted by the University Medical Center of Southern Nevada, in Las Vegas.

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)

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