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International Palliative Care Resource Website Goes Worldwide

*The International Palliative Care Resource Center (IPCRC.net) provides
a one-stop global palliative care information resource for professionals.*

(SAN DIEGO) – The Institute for Palliative Medicine at San Diego Hospice is launching IPCRC.net, the International Palliative Care Resource Center. This new website will provide health care professionals around the world with a single point of on-line access to palliative care information and education resources available globally. Designed for easy access over high and low-speed communication links, IPCRC.net can be readily accessed in both developed and resource limited nations.

Made possible through the generous support of the National Cancer Institute’s Office of International Affairs, IPCRC.net facilitates access to resources including palliative care education and information for physicians, nurses and other professionals as well as information resources for patients, families and caregivers. Palliative care focuses on the relief of suffering and provides advanced pain and symptom management for those with chronic and life limiting illnesses.

IPCRC.net is The Institute for Palliative Medicine’s latest innovation, and a vital step forward in achieving its mission of transforming health care through the development and dissemination of strategies for advancing palliative care in existing health care systems. It is not only an unparalleled information repository; it is a important vehicle for promoting worldwide information exchange and collaboration worldwide through education. Designed to be dynamic and constantly updated with the latest links to resources internationally, users can easily access the exact the information they need from the most advanced and current on-line sites, and may contribute to those sites as well.

Through IPCRC.net users can access published resources directly from the site or connect to international websites. “We are so thrilled to provide this new online resource that educates, informs and provides fast downloads, even on a limited telephone connection.” Helen McNeal, Executive Director of the Institute for Palliative Medicine. “We invite anyone with palliative care resources to let us know so we can provide a connection and in turn to feel free to link their users directly to our site.”

“The need for palliative care is increasing throughout the world, particularly in resource-limited nations. IPCRC.net is a valuable resource that will help to build and expand the palliative care information network worldwide,” said Dr. Frank Ferris, Director of International Programs at The Institute for Palliative Medicine. IPCRC.net will be accessible starting on October 1, 2009.

About The Institute for Palliative Medicine at San Diego Hospice.

The Institute for Palliative Medicine at San Diego Hospice is internationally recognized for its excellence in palliative care education and research. Dedicated to the relief of suffering through the transformation of health care, it focuses on discovering, demonstrating and disseminating strategies for palliative care in existing health care systems. Home to the country's largest palliative medicine physician fellowship program, The Institute also provides education to more than 1700 health care students and professionals each year. It is also the home of PAL-MED CONNECT (887-PAL-MED4), an on-line 24/7 palliative care hotline for physicians, nurse practitioners and clinical pharmacists. The Institute helped pioneer the palliative medicine subspecialty approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties in 2006. For more information, visit online at www.sd hospice.org

About National Cancer Institute

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), one of eleven agencies comprising the Public Health Service (PHS) in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). NCI coordinates the National Cancer Program, which conducts and supports research, training, health information dissemination, and other programs with respect to the cause, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer, rehabilitation from cancer, and the continuing care of cancer patients and the families of cancer patients. The Office of International Affairs of the NCI (<http://oia.cancer.gov/>) coordinates the Institute's worldwide activities in a number of arenas, including: liaison with foreign and international agencies; coordination of cancer research activities under agreements between the U.S. and other countries; planning and implementation of international scientist exchange programs; sponsorship of international workshops; and dissemination of cancer information.

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