



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2009

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**National Respiratory Training Center Wins Contract
to Help People with Asthma in the United States and Beyond**

*The National Respiratory Training Center Is Part of National Institutes of Health Effort to Advance
Asthma Control and Care*

Suffolk, VA (December 3, 2009)—People with asthma in the United States stand to breathe easier thanks to a \$100,000, two-year contract approved by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) to the National Respiratory Training Center.

The contract will fund a new project called *EPR-3 – MAGIC* (Medical Providers as Asthma Guideline Implementation Champions) that will provide a comprehensive and evidence-based interactive continuing medical education program for nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to engage nurse practitioners and physician assistants in the implementation of asthma clinical guidelines” said Judith Taylor-Fishwick, Director, National Respiratory Training Center. “The new project will provide continuing medical education as well as build asthma guideline implementation project champions at the local and regional level.”

The two-year contract is part of the NHLBI's National Asthma Control Initiative, a new effort of the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) to strengthen collaborative efforts among patients and families, health care providers, and other stakeholders committed to improving the management of asthma. Each project will provide insight into practices that can enhance asthma control by implementing—at the community level—evidence-based recommendations from two reports: the *Expert Panel Report 3-Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma* (EPR-3), and its companion, the *Guidelines Implementation Panel (GIP) Report*. It builds upon the following six key GIP recommendations: assess asthma severity; assess asthma control; schedule follow-up visits; use inhaled corticosteroids; use asthma action plans; and control environmental exposures.

"The guidelines give us the best that science has to offer about how to diagnose and control asthma, but unless health care providers, patients, and others integrate the recommendations into their programs and day-to-day routines for managing asthma, we will fall short of our potential to improve public health," said James P. Kiley, Ph.D., director of the NHLBI Division of Lung Diseases.



Asthma is a common and often disabling condition that affects some 23 million Americans, including seven million children under the age of 18. Asthma accounts for more than 10 million missed work days and almost 13 million missed school days each year.

“Our goal is to help people who have asthma lead longer, healthier, and fuller lives, thereby reducing asthma’s toll on those who have it. This demonstration project aims to tackle different barriers to quality asthma care, so patients and their families can improve asthma control—and be active at work, school, and play,” said Diana Schmidt, M.P.H., NAEPP coordinator for the NHLBI.

Findings from the National Respiratory Training Center and the other projects, will be used to guide effective, evidence-based asthma care and control here in Hampton Roads and coast-to-coast.

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**Editors: For additional information please visit the National Respiratory Training Center site below. For interviews, contact Judith Taylor-Fishwick. To speak with an NHLBI representative, please call 301 496-4236 and ask for the press officer on duty, or email NHLBI_news@nhlbi.nih.gov.*

Resources:

www.nrtc-usa.org

About NHLBI. NHLBI is part of the National Institutes of Health, the primary federal agency for conducting and supporting basic, clinical and translational medical research.

NHLBI Diseases and Conditions Index:

http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/dci/Diseases/Asthma/Asthma_WhatIs.html

The National Respiratory Training Center (NRTC) is an independent, 501(c) 3 nonprofit educational organization. The mission of the NRTC is to improve the health of patients with respiratory and allergic disease. This is fulfilled through education of the health professionals who care for these patients.