

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## THE INSTITUTE FOR PALLIATIVE MEDICINE NAMED AS GATES AWARD FINALIST

*Prestigious award program recognizes leading health organizations worldwide*

**(SAN DIEGO)** – The Institute for Palliative Medicine at San Diego Hospice (IPM) learned that it is a finalist for the 2009 Gates Award for Global Health. Sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, this annual award was established in 2000 to recognize an organization that has made a major and lasting contribution to the field of global health.

The Award will be presented in Washington, D.C. at a special awards ceremony during the Global Health Council's Annual International Conference, May 26-30, 2009. The recipient receives a \$1 million prize and a trophy.

The Institute for Palliative Medicine was nominated by Dr. Kathleen M. Foley, Medical Director of the International Palliative Care Initiative, Open Society Institute at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

In her nomination, Dr. Foley, cites IPM's International Program for "significantly expanding the capacity of developing countries to provide effective and affordable palliative care. In a world where the needs of people with advanced illness often go unrecognized, IPM's International Program provides a stellar example of what can be achieved through visionary partnerships between developed and developing countries."

"Seeing our work achieving real results for individuals and their families around the world that can be helped by palliative medicine to relieve suffering is the best possible reward," said Dr. Frank D. Ferris, Director of International Programs, "We are thrilled to have been nominated and hope that the nomination will bring attention to the need for expanding palliative care to serve more people worldwide."

For two decades, IPM has been at the forefront of national and international efforts to improve the quality and accessibility of palliative care through scientific research, professional education, and evidence-based advocacy. Led by Dr. Ferris, IPM's International Program helps developing and transition countries build capacity and integrate palliative care into their healthcare systems. Since its inception in 2001 they have worked with 14 countries to build interdisciplinary teams of physicians, nurses, social workers and spiritual counselors capable of providing quality palliative care.

(more)

## **About The Institute for Palliative Medicine at San Diego Hospice**

The Institute for Palliative Medicine (IPM) 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 whether here in San Diego or throughout the world. Home to the country's largest palliative medicine physician fellowship program, the Institute also provides education to more than 1700 health care professional and students each year. The Institute helped pioneer the palliative medicine subspecialty approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties in 2006.

Palliative care is the prevention and relief of suffering by a specialized medical team that focuses on managing symptoms, relieving pain, and improving quality of life, whatever the diagnosis.

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