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CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS EMPHASIZE MEN'S WELL-BEING DURING 11th ANNUAL NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

7th Health Screening Event on Capitol Hill Sets Example for Rest of the Country

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 15, 2004 – Congressional leaders and their staffers kicked off a week-long celebration of National Men's Health Week with health screenings today on Capitol Hill. The three-day Congressional screening is designed to stress how simple, pain-free diagnostic tests can save lives. Event supporters hope that participation by Members of Congress will help raise awareness of the rising and predominantly silent crisis in the health and well-being of men.

National Men's Health Week—celebrated each year during the week leading up to and including Father's Day—sponsors activities in communities across the country, bringing together corporations, government agencies, religious and fraternal organizations, as well as others committed to the prevention and treatment of men's health issues. With support from Pfizer Inc, this year's Congressional program includes screenings for prostate cancer, blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes and body fat. Joining for the first time this year, Spike TV—the first television network for men—lends a hand in support of Men's Health Week by providing refreshments for those being screened.

"We're pleased that Congress continues to take such an active role in emphasizing men's health," said Cory Jensen, Director of Project Development, Men's Health Network. "The need for men to see a doctor and get tested is a key goal of the National Men's Health Week. Congress' support, and that of the many participants nationwide, has enabled us to raise awareness of men's health issues in communities across the country."

Congress has remained committed to National Men's Health Week since its inception. For the past seven years, men's health screenings have been offered on Capitol Hill during National Men's Health Week, with more than 700 members, staffers and employees participating each

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year. Among several Congressional leaders, U.S. Representative Randy "Duke" Cunningham and U.S. Senators Senator Mike Crapo and Richard Shelby have been instrumental in joining the Men's Health Network in supporting this effort. More than 300 members of Congress co-sponsored the "National Men's Health Week" Act in 1994.

"As a prostate cancer survivor, I know first hand the importance of annual examinations and early detection," said U.S. Representative Randy "Duke" Cunningham. "Lack of awareness and culturally induced behavior patterns in the work and personal lives of men continue to contribute to the growing crisis in men's health. I encourage everyone to take the time to protect yourself and have a health professional explain your risks."

In general, men are less likely to see a doctor or be proactive about their health than women. Senator Mike Crapo, also a prostate cancer survivor, sees National Men's Health Week as a way to call attention to the simple fact that regular medical exams, preventive screenings, exercise and healthy eating habits help save lives. "Increasing awareness of one's health means men can live longer with a higher quality of life," says Crapo. "The reflection on society could be higher work productivity, reduced Medicare expenses, spouses who enjoy a longer life together and children who benefit from having a healthy father in their lives."

"The importance of annual health examinations and early detection cannot be overstated. The value of men having an annual exam is well documented," said Lou LaMarca, Director of Federal Relations for Pfizer Inc and co-sponsor of this year's Men's Health Network Screening. "Pfizer strongly supports the work of the Men's Health Network and urges all men to attend this important event on the Hill."

The Men's Health Network is a non-profit educational organization comprised of physicians, researchers, public health workers, individuals and other health professionals. MHN is committed to improving the health and wellness of men through education campaigns, data collection and work with health care providers to provide better programs and funding on men's health needs. Additional questions or comments should be referred to info@menshealthnetwork.org or by calling (202) 543-6461, ext. 101.

In addition to the support from Capitol Hill, more than 45 governors have declared Men's Health Week in their states and a number of corporations have also signaled their commitment to promoting men's health issues during National Men's Health Week.

National Men's Health Week will be recognized through events supported by elected officials, businesses and communities across the country. The following are just a few of the many notable events occurring this week and their sponsors:

Georgia Department of Public Health
Atlanta, Ga.
Contact: Sean Johnson, 404-651-7441
Contact: Ryan Cooper, 732-485-1455

Massachusetts Medical Society
Waltham, Mass.
Contact: Dr. Arnold Robbins
617-864-0574

Brighthouse Networks Field
Clearwater, Fla.
Contact: Jamie Thornberry
202-543-6461 x102

Tennessee Men's Health Network
Various Cities in Tennessee
Contact: Mike Leventhal
865-406-0129

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Pinellas County/Other Counties
Various Cities in Florida
Contact: Robert Janssen
727-824-6923

Father's Fair
Bronx, N.Y.
Contact: Pam Stewart
718-904-1916
Contact: Cory Jensen
202-543-6461

Near North Health Service
Chicago, Ill.
Contact: Toni Lieteau
312-337-1073

Catahoula Parish Hospital/Sicity Island Medical Center
Sicity Island, La.
Contact: Connie Goodwin
318-389-5621

KAME Wellness Center
Keokuk, Iowa
Contact: Dee Hagmeier
319-524-8144 x6

Makah Health Services
Neah Bay, Wash.
Contact: Pat Connolly
360-645-3250

Institute on Aging
San Francisco, Calif.
Contact: Yvette Pannell
415-752-4180 X 212
Contact: Mary Twomey
415-750-4180 X 225

Men's Health Network Testosterone Tune-up
National Program
Contact: Nathan Gannon
202-543-6461 x101

In addition to the many events that are happening nationwide, members of the Men's Health Network Advisory Board have volunteered as spokespersons during National Men's Health Week, each tailoring their medical specialty into the overall message of men's health.

Jean Bonhomme, MD, MPH
Emory University
Atlanta, Ga.
Specialty: Minority Health, Drugs and AIDS
404-712-9518

Betty Gallo
Gallo Prostate Cancer Center
New Brunswick, N.J.
Specialty: Prostate Cancer, Public Policy, and the Role
of Women in Men's Health
732-235-6198

Jamie Thornberry
Men's Health Network
Washington, D.C.
Specialty: Hispanic Outreach (Spanish speaking)
202-543-6461 x102

Natan Bar-Chama, MD
Mt. Sinai Medical Center
New York, N.Y.
Specialty: Male Reproductive Surgery
212-241-7443

Al Baraff, PhD, Clinical Psychologist
MenCenter
Washington, D.C.
Specialty: Mental Health
202-393-3300

Armin Brott
MrDad.com
Oakland, Calif.
Specialty: Parenting
510-734-2297

Dean Troyer, MD
University of Texas Health and Science Center
San Antonio, Texas
Specialty: Prostate Cancer
210-567-4101

Peter Rumm, MD
State of Wisconsin, Division of Public Health
Madison, Wisc.
Specialty: Public Health
608-267-3835

Robert Tan, MD
University of Texas
Houston, Texas
Specialty: Andropause (male menopause), Aging
713-500-7580

Ed Stephens, MD
New York, N.Y.
Specialty: Mental Health, Psychiatry
212-249-8861

Dr. Ken Goldberg
Specialty: Men's Health Clinics
972-751-6253

Judd W. Moul, MD, FACS (COL, MC, USA)
DoD Center for Prostate Disease Research
Professor of Surgery
Specialty: Urology, Oncology
240-453-8951

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