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National Leaders Inspire Attendees at “Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics 2010”

West Palm Beach, Fla. — Florida Medical Directors Association (FMDA) recently hosted its 19th annual conference which gathered more than 500 long-term care (LTC) practitioners and industry representatives at Walt Disney World’s Swan Hotel in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

A featured session included the annual national leaders’ forum which focused on future directions in geriatrics that affect all health care practitioners and LTC organizations. On hand to represent the American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) was its president-elect, Dr. Karyn Leible. The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) was represented by its president, Shelly Spiro, and Cheryl Phillips, chairman of the board, represented the American Geriatrics Society (AGS). Each leader offered an insightful perspective into their respective organizations and examined upcoming challenges that are faced by practitioners working in long-term care and geriatrics. The leaders spent the majority of their time answering difficult questions from the audience on the most pressing issues, while FMDA President Dr. Hugh Thomas served as moderator.

Dr. Thomas was honored to have these prominent leaders speak at the conference, “It is extremely important that the physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, consultant pharmacists, directors of nursing, and administrators keep the lines of communication open between our respective fields as well as with the frontline caregivers so that we can continue to provide the highest quality of care to our patients.”

“FMDA is very proud of the success that the Best Care Practices conference has enjoyed and the part it plays in the industry,” he added.

During the Annual Awards Luncheon, FMDA announced the winner of the 2010 Poster Presentation Awards. This year’s winner was Charlene Demers, a nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist at Orlando VA Medical Center. Her study, as portrayed in her poster presentation, dealt with the prevention of urinary tract infections using a team work approach in long-term care.

Others recognized during the Luncheon included Dr. Rhonda L. Randall, Sr. Medical Director & VP of Medical Management with UnitedHealthcare Medicare & Retirement. Dr. Randall, who is a director of FMDA, was recognized with a plaque for her “dedicated service, commitment to excellence and contribution to the Florida Medical Directors Association in her leadership role as strategic planning facilitator and catalyst in 2010.”

Plans for FMDA’s 20th annual conference are already underway. Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2011 will be returning to *Disney’s Contemporary Resort*, October 20-23, 2011.

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Started in 1990, the Florida Medical Directors Association is the official state chapter of the American Medical Directors Association and is a Specialty Society of the Florida Medical Association. It is based in West Palm Beach, Fla.

The FMDA represents more than 325 medical directors, attending physicians, physician assistants, and advanced registered nurse practitioners in Florida’s postacute care continuum, including subacute care, hospice, skilled nursing, and assisted living facilities, as well as in continuing-care retirement communities.

The mission of FMDA is to promote the highest-quality care in the postacute continuum by providing leadership, professional education, and advocacy.

"Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2011" is the annual conference which is joint-sponsored by the Florida Medical Directors Association and the American Medical Directors Association.

October 20-23, 2011 * *Disney's Contemporary Resort* * Lake Buena Vista (Orlando), Florida