



For Immediate Release

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Florida Chapters of the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association Join Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2011

West Palm Beach, Fla. – Florida Medical Directors Association (FMDA) President Hugh Thomas, DO, FAAFP, CMD, is pleased to announce that the Florida Chapters of the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (FL-GAPNA & FL Gulf Coast Chapter) have agreed to join the Florida Geriatrics Society (FGS), Florida Chapter – American College of Health Care Administrators (FL-ACHCA), National Association Directors of Nursing Administration (NADONA), and FMDA in collaborating on “Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2011,” Oct. 20-23, 2011, at Disney’s Grand Floridian Hotel in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

The Florida Chapters of GAPNA aim to promote high standards of health care for older adults through advanced gerontological nursing practice, education, and networking. GAPNA is the organization of choice for advanced practice nurses who want to pursue continuing education in gerontological care and who seek peer support from experienced clinicians.

“We are thrilled that the Florida Chapters of GAPNA have decided to join us in our efforts to educate nurse practitioners alongside physicians, pharmacists, long-term care nurses, and nursing home administrators, all along the continuum,” Thomas said. “By adding another strong collaborating organization, the 2011 conference aims to be one of the most successful conferences ever,” he added.

“Both FL-GAPNA chapters are very excited about joining forces with FMDA for the Best Care Practices conference,” said Jo Ann Fisher, president of FL-GAPNA. “Our organization is comprised of nurse practitioners from across the entire state and we are delighted to be able to give our members an opportunity to be associated with FMDA and a geriatrics conference with a national reputation,” Fisher added.

FMDA and the Florida Chapters of GAPNA are committed to ensuring that its members have access to the latest information, opportunities for educational advancement, and the framework to advocate the positions that will benefit their members and patients/residents. This annual educational program has evolved into a national gathering for a wide discipline of health care practitioners, all working in long-term care, assisted living, home care, and

academia. It provides a unique opportunity to network and enjoy educational seminars from the top experts in their fields. More information concerning this conference is available at www.bestcarepractices.org.

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The Florida Medical Directors Association (FMDA) FMDA represents nearly 250 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 as patients' transition through the long term care continuum. FMDA is dedicated to providing leadership, professional education and advocacy for the inter-professional team.

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

Florida Chapter – American College of Health Care Administrators (FL-ACHCA) Founded in 1962, ACHCA is a non-profit national professional membership association which provides superior educational programming, professional certification, and career development opportunities for its members.

Guided by the vision that dynamic leadership forges long-term health care services that are desired, meaningful, successful, and efficient, ACHCA identifies, recognizes, and supports long term care leaders, advocating for their mission and promoting excellence in their profession.

Florida Geriatrics Society (FGS) FGS is a not-for-profit state organization with interest in scientific, educational and academic activities to the entire geriatric care team, who can render optimal care for older adults. In addition to this winter meeting, FGS holds an annual medical convention to provide both CME and CEU credits for physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, psychologists and social workers. Members of the Board of Directors of FGS hold representation from all the medical schools in the state of Florida. It encourages in-training fellows, residents, and medical students' participation.

FGS is also a Specialty Society of the Florida Medical Association.

National Association Directors of Nursing Administration (NADONA) Since 1986, NADONA has been the leading advocate and educational organization for DONs, ADONs and RNs in Long-Term Care (LTC). NADONA/LTC was founded by dedicated LTC professionals, and its board of trustees still consists of LTC professionals. NADONA understands daily challenges, and are here to provide nurses with the tools they need for professional success.

It is the charter of this association to promulgate and foster a network of directors of nursing and assistant directors of nursing in long-term care. To that end, this association endeavors to provide education, communication and service to the members it serves. Through the NADONA/LTC Code of Ethics, Constitution and Charter, it supports and promotes quality of care for those individuals receiving long-term care, and concern for those delivering long-term care.

Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA) was founded in 1981, by a small group of GNP's with the intention of offering the first continuing education conferences designed specifically to meet the needs of advanced practice nurses. Currently, GAPNA represents nearly 10,000 certified advanced practice nurses who work with older adults in a wide variety of practice settings. GAPNA is the organization of choice for advanced practice nurses who want to pursue continuing education in gerontological care and who seek peer support from experienced clinicians.