

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California Medical Association Foundation Addresses Future Action Plan to Increase HPV Prevention

Sacramento, Calif. – [November 10, 2008] – The California Medical Association (CMA) Foundation in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health and the Office of Women’s Health will hold a Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Summit on November 10, 2008 at the Sierra Health Foundation in Sacramento.

Physicians, health care professionals, policy makers, cancer survivors and advocates will convene from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to discuss updates on the adoption and administration of the HPV vaccine as a key strategy for cervical cancer and sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention and discuss strategies to strengthen adoption of the vaccine.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, 6.2 million men and women have been infected with the HPV virus, of which 4.6 million were adolescents and young adults between the ages of 15 to 24. As a result, the CMA Foundation plans to develop a future action plan to address and educate Californians on HPV and cervical cancer prevention.

“By collaborating with the California Department of Public Health, as well as infectious disease specialists, OB-GYNs, cervical cancer survivors and young women who are at risk, we have an incredible opportunity to develop an effective and comprehensive plan to decrease the number of women who are effected by HPV in California,” said Carol Lee, president and CEO of CMA Foundation.

Summit participants will discuss and interpret cervical cancer prevalence, including the identification of health disparities that are associated; discuss the patterns of HPV vaccination in California depending on region, age, income and ethnicity; interpret how

gaps in access to the vaccine contribute to disparities in usage; and prioritize and ways to minimize the barriers impacting the rate of HPV vaccination.

In addition, Maya Mathur, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Science Scholar Award Winner will present her findings and results from surveying young women about HPV and their opinions on prevention.

For more information about the HPV Summit or the CMA Foundation's HPV/Cervical Cancer project, please contact Brittany Ridley at 805.748.4077 or bridley@thecmafoundation.org.

California Medical Association Foundation

The CMA Foundation is a nonprofit organization that serves as a link between physicians and their communities. The Foundation improves individual and community health through a partnership of leaders in medicine, related health professions and the community. For more information about the CMA Foundation, visit www.calmedfoundation.org.

HPV/Cervical Cancer Project

The CMA Foundation has initiated a project addressing the link between Human Papillomavirus [HPV] and Cervical Cancer. The goal of the project is to educate both patients and clinicians about the connection between the HPV virus and cervical cancer with the ultimate aim of promoting strategies that can prevent both cervical cancer and HPV.

California Department of Public Health

The California Department of Public Health protects and promotes the health and well-being of the people in California.

Office of Women's Health

The Office of Women's Health guides women's health policy in an effective and comprehensive fashion to promote health and reduce the burden of preventable disease and injury among the women and girls of California.

California Emerging Infections Program

The California Emerging Infections Program (CEIP), funded under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is one of eleven federally funded Emerging Infections Program (EIP) sites. As part of the EIP network, the CEIP has been an invaluable national resource for surveillance, prevention, and control of emerging infectious diseases since 1994.

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