

FEDERAL HEALTH UPDATE

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Produced by Kate Connelly Theroux in collaboration with the Institute of Federal Health Care (IFHC)

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Executive and Congressional News

- The House and Senate are in recess until July 12, 2010.
- **President Barack Obama has used a recess appointment to install Harvard Professor Donald Berwick to run the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.**

Dr. Donald Berwick is president and chief executive officer of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, clinical professor of Pediatrics and Health Care Policy at the Harvard Medical School, and professor of health policy and management at the Harvard School of Public Health. He is also a pediatrician, adjunct staff in the Department of Medicine at Boston's Children's Hospital and a consultant in pediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital. He has served as chair of the National Advisory Council of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM).

Dr. Berwick served on the IOM's governing Council from 2002 to 2007. In 1997 and 1998, he was appointed by President Clinton to serve on the Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Healthcare Industry. A summa cum laude graduate of Harvard College, Dr. Berwick holds a Master in Public Policy degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government. He received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School, where he graduated cum laude.

Military Health Care News

- **Larry Sipos assumed the responsibilities of the acting deputy assistant secretary of defense for force health protection and readiness (FHP&R) on July 2, 2010, with the departure of Col. Donald L. Noah.**

Sipos is the executive officer to the deputy assistant secretary of defense for FHP&R. In this capacity, he serves as the principal advisor to the deputy assistant secretary and executes activities and tasks at the deputy assistant secretary's direction. Sipos oversees FHP&R interaction with military departments, Congress, and various executive branch level agencies. He ensures health care programs and policies correspond to Department goals, and manages the day-to-day activities of FHP&R staff. He also is a lead for the Department of Defense on the Wounded, Ill, and Injured Overarching Integrated Product Team.

Sipos received his bachelor's degree in actuarial science from Drake University, a Masters of Business Administration in business (computer science) from Texas A&M University, and is a graduate of the College of Financial Planning in Denver.

Sipos served more than 26 years in the Air Force in a number of roles, including director of Command Programming for Air Force Communications Command; commander of the Strategic Communications Computer Center, HQ Strategic Air Command and U.S. Strategic Command; and as director of Architectures, Technology and Interoperability for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (C4) for HQ United States Air Force.

From 1994 until 2009, Sipos served in a number of roles as a contractor within the Military Health System and Force Health Protection and Readiness representing companies such as Northrop Grumman and Booz Allen Hamilton as a project leader, contract operations manager, and senior advisor to government staff on health policy and programs affecting service members.

- **TriWest Healthcare Alliance announced it will match the funds released by Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle for a training program on the Big Island to help relieve a worsening statewide physician shortage, especially in rural areas.**

Triwest has committed \$500,000 per year for five years for an interdisciplinary training program for medical residents, nurse practitioners and undergraduates.

A work force assessment shows a Big Island crisis, with 38 percent fewer doctors than needed and developing crises in other areas. The state is short 500 doctors across nearly all specialties. The biggest needs are for primary care doctors, cardiologists, anesthesiologists, diagnostic radiologists, gastroenterologists, internists, general surgeons and infectious disease specialists. In addition, 41 percent of Hawaii's physicians (1,335) will be 65 in the next 10 years, with a potential loss of 134 per year as they retire.

In the Big Island residency training program, newly graduated medical doctors or residents spend three years in family practice training under the medical school's Department of Family Practice and Community Health. The program plans to graduate four family medicine specialists each year—in hopes that they will open practices on the Big Island after completing training.

- **Humana Military Healthcare Services' Warrior Navigation & Assistance Program (WNAP) received the "2010 Outstanding Military Vendor Program of the Year" award.**

The award, the first of its kind, was presented during the Military Healthcare Convention & Conference held by the Institute for Defense and Government Advancement (IDGA) in San Antonio.

WNAP offers one-on-one assistance regarding unique challenges many service members may face relating to access to care, or the need for information on available resources in the Military Health System, Veterans Affairs Department, or in the community. The program also offers a broad spectrum of clinical programs designed to meet the special needs for service members and their families. The award was based on the following criteria:

- Program's overall contribution, mission, and operational effectiveness to military health care.
- The conceptual development of the program's objective.
- The program's reach and impact on the community.
- The program's budget and time allocated to meet performance.

IDGA is an information-based organization dedicated to the promotion of innovative ideas in public service and defense through live conferences and events. The award selection panel consisted of active duty service members and civilians within the Department of Defense. The focus this year was bridging the gap between service member and family care.

- **Humana Military Healthcare Services received an Award of Excellence for "Web and Intranet Site" in the 22nd annual Awards for Publication Excellence (APEX).**

APEX Awards are sponsored by Communications Concepts, Inc., which publishes *Writing That Works: The Business Communications Report*, a bimonthly publication regarding writing, editing, and publishing for communicators in the corporate, nonprofit, and agency environment.

There were 3,700 entries this year in 11 major categories. APEX awards are based on excellence in graphic design, communication, and editorial content. Judges look for good ideas, creativity, and innovation. To view the Humana Military website, please visit: www.humana-military.com

- **Health Net Federal Services, LLC, announced it has extended Health Net, Inc.'s partnership with text4baby — a new, free mobile information service providing timely health information to pregnant women and new moms from pregnancy through a baby's first year — to service members, active duty and retired, and their family members in 23 states in the TRICARE North Region.**

Women who sign up for the service by texting BABY to 511411 (or BEBE for Spanish) receive three free SMS text messages each week timed to their due date or baby's date of birth. These messages focus on a variety of topics critical to maternal and child health, including birth defects prevention, immunization, nutrition, seasonal flu, mental health, oral health and safe sleep. Text4baby messages also connect women to prenatal and infant care services and other

resources.

According to the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition, each year in the U.S., more than 500,000 babies are born prematurely and an estimated 28,000 children die before their first birthday. The infant mortality rate in the U.S. is one of the highest in the industrialized world, and for the first time since the 1950s, that rate is on the rise. Research shows that while 90 percent of Americans have a mobile phone, fewer have access to the Internet and texting is more prevalent among women of childbearing age.

The text4baby program is supported by numerous businesses throughout the country. U.S. government partners include the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Department of Health and Human Services. The mobile health platform is provided by Voxiva and free messaging services are provided by participating wireless service providers.

TRICARE is the Department of Defense's military health care system for U.S. service members and their families. The TRICARE North Region includes: Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. In addition, the contract covers a small portion of Tennessee, Missouri and Iowa.

Veterans Health Care News

- **Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced plans to develop a fully automated, online system for handling veterans' disability compensation claims.**

More than a simple digitization of existing paper-based claims, the new system is part of VA's modernization of the end-to-end processing workflow. Automation will substantially reduce processing time and increase accuracy while simplifying the way that veterans interact with the claims process.

Veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in the Republic of Vietnam who today have B-cell leukemia (hairy-cell leukemia), Parkinson's disease, or ischemic heart disease are slated to be the first users of the automated system. The final regulation implementing the presumption of service connection for these three diseases is poised to become effective later this year. While the first use of the new system will be limited to this pending subset of disabilities, usage will expand over time to include claims for other conditions.

The new system will guide veterans through automated, program-assisted menus to capture the information and medical evidence that will drive faster claims decisions. In the initial configuration, VA estimates the new system may assist as many as 100,000 veterans.

As part of the implementation of the new claims system, VA has awarded a \$9.1 million development contract to Bethesda, Md.-based IBM. The IBM team will work closely with VA developers and will implement the online application system by November, permitting veterans easier and faster access to VA and more accurate and quick claims processing for the initial set of qualifying conditions.

- **As a result of the mistakes made at the St. Louis Medical Center, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has implemented more stringent oversight of the safety of all its medical facilities.**

VA has allocated additional resources, and new procedures and stricter enforcements are in place to ensure the safety of all veterans who seek care at VA facilities. VA mandates transparency and accountability in its handling of mistakes or failures to meet VA's high standards.

Last week, the VA sent letters to 1,812 veterans warning that they might have been infected from improperly cleaned dental equipment at the St. Louis facility. Since then, the facility has undergone a thorough examination, and many safeguards have been employed to prevent a similar situation from occurring again. In-depth staff training and management reviews were immediately conducted by the St. Louis leadership, medical staff and VA's Supply, Processing and Distribution (SPD) program office teams.

In addition, the VA took immediate actions to ensure all personnel were properly re-trained and all equipment is being handled in accordance with manufacturers' instructions. All pre-washing of dental equipment which was performed by dental personnel prior to sterilizations is now being done by qualified SPD staff.

No veterans are currently ill as a result of this incident. The potential risk to veterans is extremely low.

The St. Louis VA Medical Center provides care to more than 50,000 veterans a year, and VA emphasized that the dental clinic equipment issue does not reflect the level of care provided by the more than 2,600 dedicated medical center staff.

- **Thomas R. Kosten, M.D., senior advisor on Substance Abuse based in the Mental Health Care Line at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, was recently named one of America's Top Doctors® for the fifth time by Castle Connolly Medical Ltd.**

Kosten is also the Jay H. Waggoner professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences in the Menninger Department of Psychiatry at Baylor College of Medicine and research director of the Veteran Affairs National Substance Use Disorders Quality Enhancement Research Initiative. He has several major awards for clinical research, is editor of two major journals in substance abuse and has been on the *American Journal of Psychiatry* editorial board.

Recently, he served on the Institute of Medicine Committee on vaccines for substance abuse. Kosten's work in the field of addiction has resulted in a series of ground-breaking vaccines and technologies.

Castle Connolly's Top Doctors™ selection process begins with surveys of physicians and health care professionals. Each year, Castle Connolly surveys thousands of physicians and other health care professionals and asks them to identify excellent doctors in every specialty in their region and throughout the nation. When the company began the research for the first edition of *America's Top Doctors®*, it surveyed more than 230,000 of the nation's leading medical specialists, department chairs, residency program directors, vice presidents of medical affairs, and presidents of the nation's leading medical centers and specialty hospitals.

- **The Department of Veterans Affairs opened registration on July 8 for a Women Veterans Forum that will address the quality of VA health care, the provision of benefits for women, and ways for VA to continue improving access to the care and benefits for women veterans.**

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki and VA department heads will attend the forum on July 28 at the Women's Memorial in Arlington, Va. The forum's goal is to give veterans' advocates the tools they need to help build women veterans networks and communities throughout VA.

Because of anticipated demand, available seats will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis, and confirmed registrants will be notified by email once registration is filled. Registration — through the Center for Women Veterans by e-mail at OOW@va.gov — closes when either all seats are filled or no later than July 16.

There are about 1.8 million women veterans among the nation's total of 23 million living veterans. VA estimates women veterans will comprise 10.5 percent of the veteran population by 2020.

- **Paul M. Russo has been selected to be the next director of the Hefner VA Medical Center in Salisbury, N.C.**

Russo reports to Salisbury in mid-August to take the reins of what is one of the fastest growing medical centers in the Department of Veterans Affairs. He replaces Carolyn Adams, who left in February to become the director of the VA Medical Center in Charleston, S.C.

Russo has been at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center, where he has served as the associate director since December 2004. He has worked in seven medical centers during his 28 years with the Veterans Health Administration.

Russo earned his bachelor's degree in clinical nutrition in 1982 from the State University of New York College at Buffalo, obtaining his registered dietitian credentials in October 1982. He earned a master's degree in Health Services Administration from Rochester Institute of Technology graduating Magna Cum Laude in 2005. He is board certified as a Fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives (ACHE) and currently serves as the Chairman of the ACHE Career Development Committee.

The Salisbury VA Medical Center opened in 1953 and was renamed the "W.G. (Bill) Hefner" Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in 1999. In fiscal year 2009, the medical center and its three outpatient clinics in Charlotte, Hickory and Winston-Salem, cared for 76,464 veterans in the 24-county area of the Central Piedmont.

Health Care News

- **The Department of Health and Human Services has awarded \$96 million in grants to increase diversity in the health professions workforce and encourage nurses to choose careers as nurse educators.**

The grants will go to schools to give scholarships to students from disadvantaged backgrounds with financial need, many of whom are underrepresented minorities. Funds will also provide low-interest loans to nurse faculty students — students who want to teach nursing — as incentive for nurses to select careers as nurse educators.

Of the total funding, \$66 million will be used to provide scholarships to 28,000 disadvantaged students under the Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students program. The funds awarded include:

program. The funds awarded include:

- \$45.7 million in FY 2010 appropriations for 308 grants to 605 health professions programs at colleges and universities.
- \$20.5 million in Recovery Act funds for 273 grants to 513 programs at colleges and universities.

Under the Nurse Faculty Loan Program, \$30 million is awarded to 165 grantees to support nursing student loans for master and doctoral degree nurses who will then become faculty at nursing schools across the country. In exchange for teaching at a nursing school, students are eligible for an 85 percent loan cancellation during their first four years of employment.

The funds awarded today will support the training of 850 nursing students and include:

- \$23.5 million in FY 2010 appropriations for 114 grants.
- \$6.6 million in Recovery Act funds for 51 grants.

Awards made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act can be found at:

<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/hrsa/healthprofessionsawardees.html>.

To view a list of awards, please visit:

<http://www.hrsa.gov/about/news/2010tables/nfipdsregular.html>.

- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded a \$2 million, two-year grant to the Association of Public Health Laboratories to help members link their disparate lab reporting systems.**

The Silver Spring, Md.-based association represents public government labs that monitor and detect public health threats. Members include state health departments, public hospitals, and other laboratories at the state, territory, county and city levels.

The grant is authorized under the HITECH Act. The funds will support technical assistance to labs.

- **The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced it has approved the Implantable Miniature Telescope (IMT) to improve vision in some patients with end-stage age-related macular degeneration (AMD).**

Surgically implanted in one eye, the IMT is a small telescope that replaces the natural lens and provides an image that has been magnified more than two times.

AMD, a condition that mainly affects older people, damages the center of the retina (macula) and results in a loss of vision in the center of the visual field. About 8 million people in the United States have AMD and nearly 2 million of them already have significant vision loss, according to the National Eye Institute. AMD can make it difficult or impossible to recognize faces or perform daily tasks such as reading or watching television.

The IMT is available in two models: one that provides 2.2 times magnification and another 2.7 times magnification. The IMT is designed to magnify and project images onto a healthy portion of the retina. The IMT is intended to be implanted in only one eye; the non-implanted eye is used for peripheral vision.

The IMT is used in patients ages 75 years and older with stable severe to profound vision impairment (when vision impairment has not changed over time) caused by blind spots (bilateral central scotoma) associated with end-stage AMD. These patients also have evidence of a visually significant cataract.

Patients agree to undergo training with an external telescope with a low vision specialist prior to implantation to determine whether adequate improvement in vision with the external telescope can be obtained and to verify if the patient has adequate peripheral vision in the eye that would not be implanted. Patients also agree to participate in a post-operative visual training program.

To ensure that the risks of IMT implantation are sufficiently and consistently communicated to patients, the FDA and the manufacturer created detailed labeling, including an Acceptance of Risk and Informed Decision Agreement, which patients must complete prior to IMT implantation. The agreement provides a guide for patients and their physicians to discuss the risks associated with IMT implantation. Patients should be given adequate time to review all of the information regarding the IMT.

As a condition of FDA approval, the manufacturer, VisionCare Ophthalmic Technologies Inc. of Saratoga, Calif., must conduct two post-approval studies. In one study, VisionCare must continue follow-up on the subjects from its long-term follow-up cohort for an additional two years. Another study of 770 newly enrolled subjects will include an evaluation of the endothelial cell density and related adverse events for five years after implantation.

- **The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Public Health and Science announced that it will begin accepting applications for the Pregnancy Assistance Fund.**

Created by the Affordable Care Act, this competitive grant program will provide pregnant and parenting teens and women a seamless network of supportive services to help them complete high school or postsecondary degrees and gain access to health care, child care, family housing and other critical support. In addition, states can use the funds to combat violence against pregnant women.

States can use funding from the Pregnancy Assistance Fund to work with a wide range of stakeholders to provide needed services to pregnant teens and women who have decided to carry their pregnancies to term and to those who are parenting. Key stakeholders, such as institutions of higher education, high schools, community organizations and state attorneys general offices, are identified in the legislation as potential partners for states in this program. Programs will be tasked with connecting families to the supportive services they need and ensuring a focus on important outcomes such as graduation rates, maternal and child health outcomes and parenting skills.

The Act appropriates \$25 million for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2019 for the purpose of awarding competitive grants to states and Indian tribes or reservations. It is anticipated that up to 25 grants in the amounts of \$500,000 - \$2,000,000 per year will be awarded. The application deadline is Aug. 2, 2010.

For more information on this funding opportunity announcement, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/ohps/oah/prevention/grants/announcements/index.html>.

- **The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced awards of \$10 million to 10 national non-profit organizations to support public health efforts to reduce tobacco use and reduce obesity through increased physical activity and improved nutrition.**

These competitive awards are part of the HHS *Communities Putting Prevention to Work* (CPPW) initiative, a comprehensive prevention and wellness initiative funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The winning organizations will provide expert guidance to community leaders, help sustain prevention efforts when Recovery Act funding ends, and foster a national movement toward prevention by implementing key practices across their networks and systems. They will help communities implement prevention policies that will enable residents to live longer, healthier lives. Examples of these strategies include: incentives to food retailers to locate and offer healthier options in underserved areas; healthier choices in child care, schools, and the workplace; subsidized memberships to recreational facilities; safe routes to school; and evidence-based strategies that discourage tobacco use and increase utilization of cessation programs.

Of the 10 organizations receiving \$1 million grants, seven organizations will receive funding for obesity prevention, and three will receive funding for tobacco prevention and cessation.

The awardees are:

- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Heart Association
- American Lung Association
- Association of American Indian Physicians
- BlazeSports America
- Community Food Security Coalition
- National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund
- National Recreation and Parks Association
- Sesame Workshop
- Society for Public Health Education

CPPW reflects HHS' commitment to helping prevent disease before it starts. The program has five distinct initiatives: a community initiative, a states and territories change initiative, a states chronic disease self management initiative, the national organizations initiative, and a supporting media campaign.

In addition to these new grant awards to national organizations, HHS will soon launch a National Prevention Media Campaign that will deliver hard-hitting advertisements to complement and support the work of CPPW. A contract for \$28 million was recently awarded to the Academy for Educational Development (AED). This new media contract will also develop consumer materials for First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move!* campaign aimed at preventing childhood obesity.

The following grants have already been awarded under CPPW:

- *Community Initiative*: \$372 million in prevention and wellness grants to 44 communities around the nation.
- *States and Territories Policy and Environmental Change Initiative*: more than \$119 million to states and U.S. territories to support public health efforts to reduce obesity, increase physical activity, improve nutrition, and decrease smoking.
- *States Chronic Disease Self Management Initiative*: \$27 million will allow states to provide self-management programs to older adults with chronic diseases, build statewide delivery systems, and develop the workforce that delivers these programs.

To learn more about *Communities Putting Prevention to Work*, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/cppw/factsheet.html> and <http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/recovery>.

Reserve/Guard

- As of July 6, 2010, the total number of Guard and Reserve currently on active duty has **decreased** by 668 to 120,477. The totals for each service are Army National Guard and Army Reserve 90,999; Navy Reserve, 6,354; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 17,111; Marine Corps Reserve, 5,223; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 790. www.defenselink.mil

Reports/Policies

- **The Institute of Medicine (IOM) published "Strategic Approach to the Evaluation of Programs Implemented Under the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde U.S. Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008," on July 7, 2010.** This report outlines the IOM's strategic approach for this evaluating the progress for HIV/AIDS programs. <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2010/Strategic-Approach-to-the-Evaluation-of-Programs-Implemented-Under-the-Lantos-Hyde-US-Global-Leadership-Against-HIV-AIDS-Tuberculosis-and-Malaria-Reauthorization-Act-of-2008.aspx>

Legislation

- No legislation was proposed this week.

Hill Hearings

- The House Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on **July 14, 2010**, to examine the progress of suicide prevention outreach efforts at the U.S. Department of Veterans.
- The House Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a roundtable on **July 21, 2010**, to on innovative treatments for TBI and PTSD.
- The House Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on **July 27, 2010**, to examine Gulf War Illness: and the future for unsatisfied veterans.
- The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on **Sept. 22, 2010**, to examine a legislative presentation focusing on the American Legion.
- The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee will hold an oversight hearing on **Sept. 23, 2010**; examine Veterans' Affairs disability compensation, focusing on presumptive disability decision-making.

Meetings / Conferences

- The International Society for Infectious Diseases Neglected Tropical Diseases Meeting will be held on **July 8-10, 2010**, in Boston, Mass. <http://www.isid.org/>
- The CDC 7th International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases will be held on **July 11-14, 2010**, in Atlanta, Ga. <http://www.iceid.org/>
- The 2nd Annual Mobile Health (mHealth) Summit will be **July 29-30, 2010**, in Boston, Mass. www.worldcongress.com/mHealth
- Association for Healthcare Resource and Materials Management's Annual Conference will be held on **Aug. 1-4, 2010**, in Denver, Colo. http://www.ahrmm.org/ahrmm_app/conference/annualconf10/index.jsp
- The 8th Annual Health Care Quality Congress (HCQ 2009) will be held on **Aug. 2-4, 2010**, in Boston Mass. <http://www.worldcongress.com/events/HL10025/>
- The 9th International Rotavirus Symposium will be held **Aug. 2-3, 2010**, in Johannesburg, South Africa. <http://www.rotavirus2010.com>
- 13th Annual Force Health Protection Conference: "Military Preventive Medicine and Public Health" will be held on **Aug. 10-13, 2010**, in Phoenix, Ariz. <http://www.theconferencewebsite.com/conference-info/FHPC-2010>
- National Conference on Health Statistics will be held **Aug. 16-18, 2010**, in Washington, D.C. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/events/nchs.htm>
- The Immunotherapeutics & Vaccine Summit will be held on **Aug. 17-19, 2010**, in Cambridge, Mass. <http://www.healthtech.com/imt/overview.aspx>
- The 2010 Advanced Technology Applications for Combat Casualty Care (ATACCC) Conference will be held **Aug. 16-19, 2010**, in St. Pete Beach, Fla. <https://www.ataccc.org/>
- AHRA 2010 Annual Meeting and Exposition will be held on **Aug. 22-26, 2010**, in National Harbor, Md. <http://www.ahraonline.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=AnnualMeetingRegistration>
- 13th Battlefield Healthcare event: Pre and Post Deployment Combatant Care will be held **Sept. 20-22, 2010**, in San Diego, Calif. <http://www.battlefieldhealthcare.com/Event.aspx?id=331874>
- USU-HJF Military Medicine Symposium: Advancing Public-Private Partnerships will be held on **Sept. 23, 2010**, in Washington D.C. www.hjf.org/symposium
- The 5th Annual Obesity Congress will be held on **Sept. 28-30, 2010**, in Washington D.C. <http://www.worldcongress.com/events/HL10088/>
- The 6th Annual World Healthcare Innovation and Technology Congress (*WHIT v.6.0*) will be held **Nov. 8-10, 2010**, in Washington D.C. <http://www.worldcongress.com/events/HL10010/>

If you need further information on any of the items in the Federal Health Update, please contact Kate Connelly Theroux at (703) 447-3257 or by e-mail at kate.theroux@fedhealthinst.org. To subscribe, please visit <http://fedhealthinst.org/subscribe.cfm>. To unsubscribe, please send an email to newsletter@fedhealthinst.org with UNSUBSCRIBE as the subject.

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