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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AHA Launches the Symposium for Leaders in Healthcare Quality to Increase and Strengthen Focus on Quality and Patient Safety Improvement

Chicago (April 7, 2014) — To further cement its commitment to improve quality and patient safety in America’s hospitals, the American Hospital Association is launching a new forum – the Symposium for Leaders in Healthcare Quality (SLHQ). SLHQ provides health care improvement professionals a setting to collaborate and share best practices to improve quality and patient safety.

“Quality improvement is a main focus for hospitals and health care systems,” said Rich Umbdenstock, AHA president and CEO. “America’s hospitals are committed to building on the improvements they have already made by engaging in both national initiatives and individual improvement efforts. SLHQ gives them a network through which they can collaborate and share best practices.”

Members of SLHQ have access to cutting-edge research and education, innovative professional development opportunities and a robust peer-to-peer learning network to help them provide safe, high quality care for patients. The forum is designed to reach both leadership and front-line caregivers who engage in performance improvement activities. SLHQ will engage professionals across the care continuum including in hospitals, long-term care facilities, ambulatory care centers and other care delivery settings.

“SLHQ is a community of innovative health care professionals committed to improvement and excellence,” said Maulik Joshi, Dr.P.H., senior vice president of AHA and president of AHA’s Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET). “It provides a foundation for the numerous quality efforts already underway across the country by building a powerful network to expand the transformation of health care.”

The forum will be managed by HRET, an affiliate of the AHA. It will build on the ongoing work of many of HRET’s national quality improvement projects, such as the Hospital Engagement Network, the Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP) and TeamSTEPPS® that collectively have already improved care for thousands and saved millions in related costs.

For more information or to become a member of SLHQ, please visit www.aha-slhq.org or contact SLHQ at (773) 270-3127 or slhq@aha.org.

About the AHA

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the improvement of health in their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which include nearly 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks and other providers of care. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information visit the website at www.aha.org.

Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET)

Founded in 1944, the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) is the not-for-profit research and education affiliate of the American Hospital Association (AHA). HRET's mission is to transform health care through research and education. HRET's applied research seeks to create new knowledge, tools and assistance in improving the delivery of health care by providers in the communities they serve. For more information about HRET, visit www.hret.org.

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