



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Pharmacy Access Partnership – a center of the Pacific Institute for Women's Health –
Celebrates October as National Pharmacist's Month by
Launching the first Reproductive Health Leadership Program for Pharmacists**

(Los Angeles/ Oakland, CA) – The Pacific Institute for Women's Health and Pharmacy Access Partnership will launch the nation's first leadership training program designed to train and engage pharmacists to become champions of women's reproductive health. The 2009 inaugural class of *Pharmacy Forward: Pharmacy Leadership for Reproductive Health* kicks off in Los Angeles October 2-4 highlighting National Pharmacist Month.

Pharmacy Forward fellows will be trained in key policy and advocacy areas of reproductive health, including access to hormonal contraception, STI testing and treatment, cervical cancer prevention and youth access to reproductive health services. Fellows will also be exposed to tools and strategies to lead innovative programs and policies, as well as leverage media and research opportunities.

Dovetailing the Association of Reproductive Health Professional's (ARHP) annual conference in Los Angeles, *Pharmacy Forward* is designed to prepare pharmacists to respond to the dynamic field of reproductive health at a time when the nation is grappling with a fractured healthcare system – where access is limited for many women and their families.

“Pharmacy-focused healthcare is an emerging field that continues to make great strides in preventive services like immunizations, diabetes management and smoking cessation. And as more pharmacists become interested in women's health, this innovative leadership program will provide them with an additional skill set in support of women's reproductive health,” stated Sharon Landau, MPH, Director of Pharmacy Access Partnership.

Landau says although many pharmacists have an interest in women's health, few have been introduced to the tools and strategies to be effective women's health advocates. She says *Pharmacy Forward* will enhance the pharmacist's role as a valued member of the health care team and foster stronger collaboration between pharmacists and other health care professionals.

Pharmacy Forward was developed in collaboration with University of California, San Francisco Pharmacists Leadership Institute. For more information visit www.pharmacyaccess.org. For interview requests contact Juana Rosa Cavero, Program Communications Specialist, at 213.386.1383.

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