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Planetree President and Independent Policy & Ethics Analyst to Keynote Healthcare Facilities Symposium & Expo; The Longest Running Event of Its Kind Announces Speaker Roster and Session Topics

TRUMBULL, Conn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--June 20, 2006--The 19th Annual Healthcare Facilities Symposium & Expo, the longest-running conference and exhibition dedicated to the improvement of the overall health and welfare of patients and successful business outcomes through facility design, will be held October 24-26 at Navy Pier in Chicago. The event provides an interactive, educational forum that centers on the practical applications and solutions for all industry professionals that work in the healthcare environment.

This year, the Symposium chose two of the industry's most sought-after experts whose insight in the healthcare field will educate and inspire conference attendees.

"We are being challenged to create healthcare facilities that support the delivery of safe, quality medical care in truly healing environments, while meeting the growing expectations of a new wave of healthcare consumers for convenience, access to information and great customer service," said Susan B. Frampton PhD, keynote speaker and president of Planetree. "The opportunity to bring a new hospital or healthcare facility on-line often comes just once in a career, if that. Making the most of that opportunity requires those involved to access the latest information on innovation in healthcare facilities design, and this conference is the place to find it."

"With an aging population, as well as one that is far more multi-cultural, future healthcare facilities will need to be radically different from the traditional patterns," says Emily Friedman, keynote speaker and independent policy and ethics analyst. "We need to think in terms of comprehensive, one-stop services; social as well as clinical needs; and the greater demands of a far more consumerist patient population."

The Symposium features approximately 70 conference sessions permeated with industry experts. More than 40 percent of the speakers come directly from hospitals and healthcare centers and will address the essentiality of patient wellness-driven healthcare facilities. These industry leaders will share insight into the importance of facility design and how it strengthens the foundation of healthcare practice.

Sample topics to be addressed at the 2006 Healthcare Facilities Symposium include:

- How to Successfully Integrate Physicians into your Facility Planning Process
- Improving Project Design Through Direct Patient Family Involvement
- Destination Hospitality: A New Perspective on Healthcare Amenities
- High-Tech Operating Rooms: Designing Technology to Improve Patient Care and OR Efficiency
- Behavioral Health Facilities: Integrating Best Practice Medicine with Best Practice Design

The Healthcare Facilities Symposium & Expo 2006 will also feature the Symposium Distinction Awards during a luncheon, sponsored by FacilityCare Magazine - on October 24. This esteemed competition honors design teams and individuals who have made a profound contribution to the healthcare design industry as well as recognize the best and most innovative new products exhibited at the Symposium. This year, the Symposium Distinction Awards also will distribute the first ever Lifetime Achievement Award.

For more information or to enter the Symposium Distinction Awards please visit <http://www.hcarefacilities.com/awards.asp>. A complete speaker roster, session details and event / registration information can be found at <http://www.hcarefacilities.com/conference.asp>.

About the Keynote Speakers:

-- Emily Friedman, Independent Policy and Ethics Analyst Named one of the Top 25 Women in Healthcare by Modern Healthcare in April 2005, Friedman is an independent writer, lecturer, and health policy and ethics analyst based in Chicago. Although Friedman is a contributing editor and contributing writer for such publications as Hospitals & Health Networks and Journal of the American Medical Association, Health Progress, she is most noted for her work in health policy, health care trends, health insurance and managed care, the social ethics of health care, health care for the underserved, health care history, population demographics, and the relationship of the public with the health care system.

-- Susan B. Frampton PhD, President of Planetree Frampton serves as the President of Planetree, a non-profit organization that works with hospitals and healthcare centers to develop and implement patient-centered care in healing environments. Prior to her work with Planetree, Frampton spent over twenty years at several hospitals in the New England area where she focused on wellness and prevention, community education, planning and development of integrative medicine service lines. She has written numerous publications, including the edited collection Putting Patients First (Jossey-Bass Publishing, 2003) which won the ACHE

Hamilton Book of the Year Award in 2004. Currently, Frampton serves on the Connecticut Healthcare Research and Education Foundation's Patient Safety Organization, and is an invited member of the Institute of Medicine patient-consumer discussion panel, informing their current efforts to reduce medication errors in hospitals.

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