



NFID Honors Three Distinguished Persons at the Annual Awards Gala Outside of Washington, DC

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) honored **Stanley A. Plotkin, MD, Ann Lurie, and Carol J. Baker, MD**, at its annual Awards Dinner on March 24, 2009. The prestigious black-tie event was held at the Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

Dr. Plotkin received the Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement, which is presented to a scientist who has made outstanding contributions to the understanding of infectious diseases or public health. Ms. Lurie was honored with the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind, which is awarded to individuals whose humanitarian efforts and achievement have contributed significantly to improving the health of people throughout the world. Dr. Baker received the John P. Utz Leadership Award, which is presented to individuals who have provided exemplary service, leadership, and vision on behalf of NFID.

The Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement

The Maxwell Finland Award is named in memory of the late **Dr. Maxwell Finland**, a distinguished scholar, scientist and teacher. A former member of the NFID Board of Directors, Dr. Finland was a driving force in shaping infectious diseases training programs in the United States and in defining the discipline of infectious diseases as we know it today. Dr. Finland was a pioneer in the epidemi-

ology, diagnosis and treatment of bacterial infections; the evaluation of antimicrobials; and the recognition of the evolving problem of antimicrobial resistance.

Described as one of the giants of vaccinology of the past 50 years, Dr. Plotkin is best known as the inventor of the rubella vaccine now in use. Dr. Plotkin is the co-developer of the recently licensed pentavalent rotavirus vaccine and has worked extensively on the development and application of others including polio, rabies, varicella, and cytomegalovirus vaccines. He has spent a lifetime in research, development, and advocacy.

“Stan Plotkin is a consummate vaccinologist, bringing expertise from epidemiology, immunology, infectious diseases, pediatrics, preventive medicine, public health and virology together to reduce infectious disease burdens through vaccinology,” said **Walter A. Orenstein, MD**, deputy director for vaccine-preventable diseases in the Global Health Program at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, who introduced Dr. Plotkin at the dinner.

Dr. Plotkin’s medical career was molded by an internship at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital, followed by a residency in pediatrics at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and the Hospital for Sick Children in London. He then served three years in the Epidemic Intelligence Service of the US Public Health Service, analyzing and combating a number of different outbreaks of infectious diseases. Dr. Plotkin is emeritus professor of the University of Pennsylvania, adjunct

professor of the Johns Hopkins University and executive advisor to sanofi pasteur. Until 1991, he was professor of pediatrics and microbiology at the University of Pennsylvania, professor of virology at the Wistar Institute and at the same time, director of infectious diseases and senior physician at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

“Dr. Plotkin has been a prolific contributor to scientific literature,” said **Vijay B. Samant**, president and chief executive officer of Vical Incorporated.

(See AWARDS, p. 3)

IN THIS ISSUE

Experts Highlight Rotavirus Disease Severity and Urge Vaccination	2
NFID Drives Efforts to Educate the Public About Adult Vaccine-Preventable Diseases	5
NFID <i>Coalition</i> Members Raise Voices to Improve Vaccination Rates	6
Compendium of Strategies to Prevent Healthcare Associated Infections – SHEA initiative	6
The Joint Commission Issues Hand Hygiene Monograph	7
Calendar of Events	7
Clinical Vaccinology Course – Fall 2009	8

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) public foundation established in 1973 to educate the public and health care professionals about the causes, treatment and prevention of infectious diseases.

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Experts Highlight Rotavirus Disease Severity and Urge Vaccination

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) recently released a white paper summarizing a panel discussion of national pediatric infectious disease experts on rotavirus. The paper addresses the latest scientific information available on rotavirus, including epidemiology, classification, treatment and prevention of the disease.

Roundtable participants discussed studies showing that gastroenteritis caused by rotavirus can be more severe in young children than that caused by other pathogens. Additionally, they noted "rates of rotavirus infection have not responded well to improvements in water supply, sanitation, or hygiene that have effectively reduced bacterial and parasitic diarrhea." For these reasons, development of rotavirus vaccines that are safe and effective has long been a high priority.

"Rotavirus is the leading cause of severe acute gastroenteritis worldwide and rates are very similar in developing countries and industrialized countries. The high incidence of rotavirus gastroenteritis during the first years of life, coupled with the significant health and economic burden, underscore the importance of rotavirus vaccination to help protect infants and children against this potentially serious but preventable disease," said **Carol J. Baker, MD**, Professor of Pediatrics, Molecular Biology and Microbiology at Baylor

College of Medicine and immediate past president of NFID.

A live, orally administered human-bovine pentavalent reassortant vaccine and a live, orally administered attenuated monovalent human vaccine have been licensed in many countries in the world. Roundtable participants highlighted the efficacy and safety profile of this vaccine, as demonstrated from the results of large clinical trials, and discussed current research aimed at elucidating the heterogeneity and prevalence of circulating rotavirus strains. Participants agreed that this is an important moment in the fight against rotavirus and expressed the belief that routine vaccination of infants should significantly reduce the enormous health burden of rotavirus worldwide.

Roundtable participants included **Evan J. Anderson, MD**, Northwestern Memorial and Children's Memorial Hospitals, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine; **Penelope H. Dennehy, MD**, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University; **David O. Matson, MD, PhD**, Eastern Virginia Medical School and Old Dominion University; and **David B. Nelson, MD**, Georgetown University Hospital. The roundtable was moderated by Dr. Baker. NFID received grant funding for this activity from Merck & Co., Inc.

The rotavirus white paper may be downloaded at http://www.nfid.org/pdf/rotavirus_paper.pdf

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Wyeth
 Pharmaceuticals

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(AWARDS, from p. 1)

He is credited with over 600 publications, most concerning the safe and effective use of vaccines. He is the editor of the standard and most widely referred to textbook on vaccination, "Vaccines," which is in its 5th edition. He has also served on the editorial boards of numerous journals, and was the American Editor of *Vaccine* until 1991. Dr. Plotkin has been active in the medical community serving on many committees, including chairman of the Infectious Diseases Committee and the AIDS Task Force of the American Academy of Pediatrics, liaison member of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and Chairman of the Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Research Committee of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Plotkin has received numerous awards and honors throughout his illustrious career.

Upon acceptance of the Maxwell Finland Award Dr. Plotkin remarked, "The Maxwell Finland Award is the highest honor in infectious diseases and I am deeply moved to have been selected for it."

The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind

The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions for the Health of Humankind is named for **President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Carter**, who as outstanding humanitarians have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for people worldwide. They are co-founders of The Carter Center, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in Atlanta and dedicated to improving the quality of life. Through the Carter Center, President and Mrs. Carter have worked to resolve conflict peacefully, promote democracy, protect human rights, prevent illness and eradicate disease.

The life of this year's award recipient, Ann Lurie, has evolved around her personal commitment to helping



Ann Lurie receives the 2009 Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contribution for the Health of Humankind. Pictured from left to right are Dr. C. Douglas Webb, Jr., Chairman, NFID Board of Trustees, Dr. George C. Hill, NFID President, and Dr. Larry Jameson, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.



The 2009 Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement is presented to Dr. Stanley A. Plotkin. Pictured from left to right are Dr. George C. Hill, President NFID Board of Directors, Dr. Thomas M. File, Vice President, NFID Board of Directors and Dr. Walter Orenstein.

people throughout the world. A Florida native, she began her career as a public health nurse. Ms. Lurie's late husband, **Robert H. Lurie**, "strengthened her faith in one's ability to change the world and who, through his loss, propelled her humanitarian

goals," stated **Dr. Henry S. Bienen**, president of Northwestern University. During their years together Mr. Lurie's business acumen led the Lurie family to extraordinary personal wealth,

(See AWARDS, p. 4)

(AWARDS, from p. 3)

which was the catalyst for forming a foundation in 1986. In 1987 Mr. Lurie was diagnosed with advanced colon cancer and succumbed to the disease two years later. Prior to his death Mr. and Ms. Lurie together decided on a template of giving. With this as her guide, Ms. Lurie began her career as a philanthropist.

During the past 21 years the foundation has gifted more than \$250 million and Ms. Lurie has made significant contributions of personal resources. As President of Lurie Investments, Ms. Lurie has directed the firm's venture capital investments heavily toward biomedical companies.

Among her many philanthropic efforts, Ms. Lurie has honored her husband's memory at Northwestern University with more than \$60 million in commitments to endow the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center, where he received his cancer care, as well as the state of the art Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center – a 12-story building with lecture facilities and laboratories that house more than 1,000 researchers, technicians, postdoctoral students, and lab assistants. She has also established two professorships at Northwestern dedicated to cancer research and endowed a laboratory floor in the Lurie Medical Research Center focusing on cancer genetics.

One of her major endeavors now is her work in Africa. As the founder and president of the Africa Infectious Disease (AID) Village Clinics, Ms. Lurie oversees operations that provide medical care and education to the Masai people of rural southeastern Kenya. She started the clinic in 2002 in a trailer towed by a used Land Cruiser. She had four employees. "There were no roads, no running water," says Ms. Lurie. "No sanitary equipment."

In her acceptance speech Ms. Lurie stated, "my interest in healthcare in Kenya was something of an accident. I found myself in rural Kenya as a safari client and learned that the residents, many of whom appeared obvi-

ously ill had no option for healthcare. It was impossible for me to walk away. I said, 'if not me, then who?' And from there a project was born."

Ms. Lurie used the occasion to present a video on her work at the AID Village Clinic. The clinic was built in 2005 with ten beds. It was quickly apparent that the clinic needed to be expanded. The clinic currently contains 20 beds and plans are being made to build a new in-patient ward containing 40 beds. Since the Clinic was established in 2001 the staff has grown from four to 120 members and 28,000 patient visits have been recorded.

"Amazingly the clinic has flourished and expanded. It is not surprising that Ann Lurie is a heroine in this region. The Masai people have seen their children and relatives get better. She has given them hope. Without Ann Lurie's contributions the world would be a different place," stated **J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD**, Lewis Landsberg Dean and Vice President of Medical Affairs for Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. "In every generation a few people emerge to change the course of humanity. In our generation Ann Lurie is one of these remarkable people," said Dr. Jameson.

John P. Utz Leadership Award

Carol J. Baker, MD received the 2009 John P. Utz Leadership Award, which is presented to individuals who have worked tirelessly in a leadership capacity on behalf of NFID. Dr. Utz, a co-founder of NFID, was a champion in the fight against infectious diseases. Dr. Baker is professor of pediatrics, molecular virology and microbiology and executive director of the Texas Children's Center for Vaccine Awareness and Research at Baylor College of Medicine. She joined the NFID Board of Directors in 2002. She later held the role of vice president and was NFID's president from 2006-2008. **Donald M. Poretz, MD** received the first John P. Utz leadership award in 2007.

Past Recipients

Past recipients of the Maxwell Finland Award are **Martin S. Hirsch, MD; Herbert L. DuPont, MD; Robert C. Moellering, Jr., MD; John G. Bartlett, MD; George H. McCracken, Jr., MD; George W. Comstock, MD, DrPH; Jerome O. Klein, MD; Robert Austrian, MD; R. Gordon Douglas, MD; Stanley Falkow, PhD; Maurice R. Hilleman, PhD; Joshua Lederberg, PhD; the Honorable Paul G. Rogers; the Honorable Dale Bumpers and Mrs. Betty F. Bumpers; Elizabeth Hanford Dole; Arthur Ashe, Jr.; Michael E. DeBakey, MD; Mrs. Albert Lasker; P. Roy Vagelos, MD; Anthony S. Fauci, MD; and C. Everett Koop, MD, ScD.**

The first Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind was presented in 1997 to **President Jimmy and Mrs. Carter**. Other past recipients of the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award are **Colin L. Powell, David Satcher, MD, PhD, R. E. "Ted" Turner, Senator John D. Rockefeller, IV, William "Bill" H. Gates, III and Melinda F. Gates, John Edward Porter, Henri Landwirth, President William Jefferson Clinton, Paul E. Farmer, MD, PhD, William Foege, MD, and Louis W. Sullivan, MD.**

Honorary Co-Chairs Host Gala Event

The honorary co-chairs for the dinner were former **President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Carter** and former **President William Jefferson Clinton. C. Douglas Webb, Jr., PhD**, Chairman of the NFID Board of Trustees and **Thomas M. File, Jr., MD**, NFID Vice President, served as co-chairs for the gala.

NFID Initiative Drives Efforts to Educate the Public About Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Affecting Adults

On April 2, the **National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID)** hosted an interactive online symposium, *Examining the U.S. Adult Immunization Program: Where We Are and Where We Need To Be*, to highlight the critical need for improved adult vaccination rates. The symposium was held as part of a larger NFID educational initiative aimed at increasing provider and public awareness about the role of adult vaccination in preventing dangerous infectious diseases.

The symposium provided members of the media and health care community with a snapshot of the current state of adult immunization and vaccine-preventable diseases in adult Americans, a scientific overview of how vaccines work, and an overview of key challenges to increasing vaccination rates in adults. A dynamic Q&A session following the presentations stimulated dialogue on the need to improve adult immunization rates and the importance of continued public and professional awareness efforts.

“There is a serious lack of awareness among the public, health care professionals and members of the media regarding the consequences of vaccine-preventable diseases and the great benefits of vaccination. Low adult immunization rates stand in stark contrast to much higher rates for children,” said **Susan J. Rehm, MD**, NFID medical director.

Vaccine-preventable diseases kill

about 50,000 adults each year and hospitalize hundreds of thousands more. Millions are affected; they are unable to care for loved ones and miss work because of adult vaccine-preventable diseases. Many also risk passing infection on to others. Each year countless numbers of people develop “silent” infections like HPV and hepatitis B which lead to dire consequences such as cervical and

eases, for their personal benefit and that of their loved ones.”

During the symposium, NFID also unveiled its new adult vaccination Web site. The Web site, www.adultvaccination.com, provides educational materials for consumers and health care providers, as well as tools to assist the media in reporting on vaccine-preventable diseases. The site also offers in-practice resources

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liver cancer. Despite these facts, adults often overlook the important role immunization plays in maintaining their overall health and do not get vaccinated.

According to **William Schaffner, MD**, president-elect of NFID, “Immunity is a powerful public health goal that we must make tangible to our adult patients. Patients should know to demand protection from serious vaccine-preventable dis-

for health care providers, including patient education materials, sample standing orders and several communications materials, such as on-hold scripts and newsletter articles.

As part of its ongoing adult initiative, NFID is planning to hold an adult immunization news conference on July 22, 2009, in Washington, DC. Additional educational activities will include radio public service announcements designed to educate about the importance of vaccination for high-priority diseases.

NFID’s 2009 adult immunization initiative is made possible by unrestricted educational grants to NFID from GlaxoSmithKline, Merck & Co., sanofi pasteur and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

New Comprehensive Online Resources
Available At
ADULTVACCINATION.com

Consortium of Healthcare Organizations Identify Strategies and Publish Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare Associated Infections

Many federal and state agencies, medical professional organizations and hospitals have initiatives in place to help reduce infections. These initiatives address everything from house-keeping standards to specific surgical practices. Recently, a consortium of healthcare epidemiologists, infection control professionals, and others with expertise in patient safety and quality improvement developed a practical guide to infection prevention.

The “Compendium of Strategies to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections in Acute Care Hospitals” was sponsored by the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA). SHEA and IDSA reviewed existing guidelines and available scientific evidence and summarized these prevention strategies for the most common and important Hospital Acquired Infection (HAIs) in a concise and user-friendly format. Above all, this effort is designed to help everyone in hospitals take action in preventing HAIs.

These strategies were developed in collaboration with the American Hospital Association (AHA), the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (APIC), and The Joint Commission. The goal is to improve the quality of patient care and help healthcare facilities to prevent infections. The compendium focuses on implementation and internal performance measurement to assess the effectiveness of hospitals’ infection prevention programs.

The strategies focus on the prevention of six most preventable HAIs: Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), *Clostridium difficile*, central line-associated bloodstream infection, ventilator-associated pneumonia, catheter-associated urinary tract infection,

and surgical site infection (SSI).

The participation of these key partners, and 29 other supporting and endorsing organizations, ensures widespread dissemination and encourages implementation of the guidelines. The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) is one of the supporting organizations for this initiative. The Joint Commission will use these implementation strategies as a basis for

2009 hospital accreditation requirements.

The guide can be viewed at www.journals.uchicago.edu/toc/iche/2008/29/s1 and will be published as a supplement to SHEA’s *Journal Infection Control and Healthcare Epidemiology*. Additional information about the compendium can be found by visiting www.preventingHAIs.com.

NFID Coalition Members Raise Voices of Concern to Improve Vaccination Rates

With the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently expanding pediatric influenza recommendations to vaccinate 30 million additional children, parents and health care professionals may have questions. The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases’ (NFID) *Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition* (CIIC) created online videos to help address these questions and educate families and caregivers, health care professionals and the media about influenza and influenza vaccination. These educational videos are available on the Coalition’s redesigned Web site, www.PreventChildhoodInfluenza.org.

Multiple short videos feature experts from an array of Coalition member organizations – including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and American Medical Association (AMA) – providing informed and easy to understand answers to frequently asked questions about influenza and vaccination.

“We’re trying to engage people more directly, in ways that are more meaningful and accessible to them,” said Carol J. Baker, MD, immediate past president of NFID and Coalition

chair. “We strongly encourage health care professionals to link to and send their patients to our Web site, and to share these videos in non-online venues such as medical offices.”

The importance of stimulating the dialogue about childhood vaccination was highlighted at NFID’s annual influenza/pneumococcal news conference last September, where the CDC announced the latest results from its annual National Immunization Survey (NIS).

These data – collected in 2006 and 2007 and published in CDC’s *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR) on September 26 – showed influenza vaccination rates for children ages 6 to 23 months remaining relatively steady, at only 21.3 percent. This was only a 0.7 percent increase from the previous year’s rate of 20.6 percent.

“The recently published CDC data demonstrate a slight rise in childhood vaccinations, which is positive news,” said Dr. Baker. “But it’s not as sizable an increase as we’d like to be seeing, and it illustrates the need to continue doing all we can to get kids immunized against influenza. The Coalition videos are an exciting new step in that direction.”

The Joint Commission Issues Hand Hygiene Monograph

In an effort to improve hand hygiene practices and measure outcomes The Joint Commission has released a monograph, "Measuring Hand Hygiene Adherence: Overcoming the Challenges." The monograph is the result of a two-year collaboration with major infection control leadership organizations in the United States and abroad to identify effective approaches for measuring adherence to hand hygiene guidelines in healthcare organizations.

Participating along with the Joint Commission are the **Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (APIC)**, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, the **Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** **World Alliance for**

“Measuring hand hygiene adherence is not a simple matter,” said
Jerod M. Loeb, PhD...

Patient Safety, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) and the **National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID)**.

Efforts to measure hand hygiene compliance is complicated due to the need to monitor various health care provider locations for sufficient periods of time. Without a standardized

approach to measuring hand hygiene performance, it is difficult to determine whether overall performance is improving, deteriorating or unchanged as new interventions are introduced.

The monograph provides a framework to help healthcare workers make necessary decisions about when, why and how to measure compliance with hand hygiene. The monograph provides a mechanism for reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of commonly used approaches.

“Measuring hand hygiene adherence is not a simple matter,” said **Jerod M. Loeb, PhD**, executive vice president of the Division of Quality Measurement and Research at The Joint Commission. “The monograph can help healthcare organizations more effectively measure compliance and strengthen improvement activities that save lives and money.”

Electronic copies of the monograph are available on The Joint Commission’s Web site at www.jointcommission.org/PatientSafety/InfectionControl/hh_monograph.htm. Complimentary copies may be requested by calling The Joint Commission’s Department of Customer Service Center at (630) 790-5800, option 5, or sending an email to customerservice@jointcommission.org.

CALENDAR OF NFID EVENTS AND MEETINGS

June 4-6, 2009

ICU Infection in an Era of Multi-Resistance

Sponsored by the Society of Intensive Care Medicine and the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine, The Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL. For information related to the program, registration and speakers please visit SCCM online at www.sccm.org/Conferences/Topics/Summer_Conference or call SCCM at 847-827-6888.

November 13 – 15, 2009

Clinical Vaccinology Course

National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, Emory Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and the Emory Vaccine Institute, at the Grand Hyatt Atlanta.

February 1 – February 3, 2010

2010 Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance

sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, Hyatt Regency Bethesda in Bethesda, Maryland.

April 26 – 28, 2010

Thirteenth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research

Sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Disease, Marriott Bethesda North Hotel and Conference Center

For more information about NFID sponsored events and meetings, please contact, Sharon Cooper-Kerr, NFID, 4733 Bethesda Ave., Suite 750, Bethesda, MD 20814-5228, (301) 656-0003, Ext 14, fax (301) 907-0878, e-mail: scooper-kerr@nfid.org, or visit our website at <http://www.nfid.org>.

Visit Us On the Web



www.nfid.org

NFID Announces Clinical Vaccinology Course

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) announces its Clinical Vaccinology Course. The course, sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), Emory Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and the Emory Vaccine Center will be held November 13 – 15, 2009 at the Grand Hyatt Atlanta in Atlanta, Georgia.

The course is specifically designed for primary care physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, public health specialists, infectious disease specialists and other health care professionals involved with clinical aspects of vaccinology.

The course topics will include:

- How Vaccines Work
- Childhood Immunizations
- Special Issues and Cutting Edge Topics
- Adult Immunization
- Childhood Immunization
- Communication Issues
- Vaccine Safety and Supply
- Clinical Cases in Vaccinology

The program features didactic presentations, clinical case discussions and meet the experts breakfast session. The Clinical Vaccinology Course has been planned and implemented in accor-

dance with the Essential Areas and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). NFID designates this educational activity for a maximum of 16.3 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. NFID is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Maryland Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This educational activity has been approved for 16.3 contact hours.

Additional information about this course is available on the NFID website, www.nfid.org.

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