



INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY MANAGEMENT

For Immediate Release

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Society of Prospective Medicine group creates ties with the Institute for Health and Productivity Management

Scottsdale, AZ, October 11, 2005. The Institute for Health and Productivity Management (IHPM) announced today that it will incorporate the Society of Prospective Medicine (SPM) Legacy Group into IHPM as part of its Research and Development Center. IHPM and SPM both are known for their contributions to the science base for health and productivity measurement. They collaborated in 1999 on the SPM Handbook of Health Assessment Tools, and members of the SPM Legacy Group will lead a new effort by IHPM to produce an update to the *Handbook*.

Established in 1971, SPM has a history of aggressive efforts to preserve and expand the knowledge base and ethical framework behind health assessment, health risk appraisal and outcomes management. IHPM was created in 1997 to measure and improve the full value of employee health to business performance, by assessing the total cost impact of illness on employee productivity measured either as absence from work or reduced effectiveness on the job, which IHPM has termed “presenteeism.”

“A key organizing principle for SPM was that the health care industry should emphasize scientifically-based disease prevention and health promotion services,” said Geoff Alexander, Chair, IHPM Liaison Committee, Gordian Health Solutions. “The work IHPM is doing in the field of productivity management fits naturally with our history and converges with our future as we take outcomes management to the next level in the workforce arena.”

Sean Sullivan, president and CEO of IHPM, said the two groups held numerous discussions over the past several months, “with a growing – and, frankly, exciting -- recognition of the value that each can bring to the other.”

“Bringing the SPM Legacy Group within the Institute will encourage research efforts to expand and improve health assessment tools and assure their appropriate use with various populations,” Sullivan said. “As with any IHPM initiative, special attention will be focused on the workplace -- with additional emphasis on the education of health care providers, consumers, employers, and insurers in the effective use of health risk assessments to identify opportunities for targeted interventions.”

“The liaison committee is excited and satisfied that this new relationship will preserve and even build on the legacy of SPM within the vitality of IHPM,” said Alexander. In addition to Alexander, the liaison committee is represented by Ed Framer, HealthCalc Network; Cori Ofstead, Ofstead & Associates, Inc and Ron Blankenbaker, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga.

(More)

Many who have worked to preserve what was best from SPM will participate in an informal reunion of the SPM family (former members, *Handbook* authors and friends) at the IHPM International conference in Phoenix, Ariz., Oct. 12-14. The reunion will be part of the IHPM Reception in the Exhibit Hall Thursday, Oct. 13 from 5 to 7 p.m. More information about the conference is available on the IHPM website (www.IHPM.org).

The SPM Legacy Group includes:

Geoff Alexander, Gordian Health Solutions; Cori Ofstead, Ofstead & Associates, Inc.; Yosuke Chikamoto, American University; Ed Framer, HealthCalc; Lynn Gilfillan-Morton, El Paso County (CO) Public Health; Katherine H Capps, Health2 Resources; Dean Grove, Corporate Medical Consultant; Gerry Hyner, Purdue University; Blair Irvine, Oregon Center for Applied Sciences.; Gordon Kaplan, WinningHabits; Robin Rager, Optimal Health Management; Harry Wetzler, Ofstead & Associates, Inc.; and Ron Blankenbaker, University of Tennessee College of Medicine Chattanooga.

About IHPM

The Institute for Health and Productivity Management (IHPM) is a global enterprise created in 1997 to establish the full value of employee health and maximize its impact on business performance. It does this by helping employers to identify the total cost impact of employee illness on business performance; choose the best opportunities to reduce this cost impact and improve performance; and measure the success of their efforts.

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