



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

PHYSICIANS FORUM TO BE HELD ON ROTAVIRUS AND VACCINE SAFETY

WHO: **Nancy Bowen, M.D.**, Public Health Officer, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHS)A)
Umesh Parashar, M.D., Medical Officer with the Epidemiology Branch, Division of Viral Diseases, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Eyla G. Boies, M.D., Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, UCSD School of Medicine
Thomas Page, M.D., President, Children's Primary Care Medical Group

WHAT: An educational event for local health care providers, featuring national and local speakers addressing rotavirus disease, the newly approved rotavirus vaccine, and vaccine safety communication issues. This event is being held during *National Infant Immunization Week* and the hemisphere-wide *Vaccination Week in the Americas* April 22 – April 29, 2006.

WHEN: 6-8 p.m., Thursday, April 27

WHERE: Doubletree Hotel Mission Valley in Hazard Center
7450 Hazard Center Drive, San Diego
IMPORTANT: Please see attached map for driving/parking directions
(*please note this event is not open to the public*)

WHY: Rotavirus is the most common cause of severe diarrhea among children, resulting in the hospitalization of approximately 55,000 children each year in the United States and the death of over 600,000 children annually worldwide. The FDA recently approved a vaccine to protect infants against this disease. Dr. Umesh Parashar of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be the keynote speaker at the Forum, where attendees will learn the latest about rotavirus disease and the new rotavirus vaccine. Issues surrounding the communication of vaccine safety information and the subject of vaccine costs and reimbursement also will be discussed.

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