



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FOR GRACE AND HEALTHY AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILIES TO HOST 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CME WOMEN IN PAIN CONFERENCE: GENDER MATTERS TO EXPLORE GENDER INEQUALITY IN DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF CHRONIC PAIN**

*500 Women in Pain, Caregivers and Healthcare Providers Will Gather in Los Angeles on September 18 to Help Empower Women as Healthcare Advocates*

LOS ANGELES (June 25, 2009) – For Grace, a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring the ethical and equal treatment of women in pain, today announced the 2nd annual CME Women In Pain Conference: Gender Matters – Building Bridges to Optimum Health. The conference, which will be held September 18, 2009, at the California Science Center in downtown Los Angeles, will focus on giving women of all walks of life power over pain.

“We at For Grace work diligently to empower all women in pain to become better advocates for their own well-being. The key word here is ‘all.’ This conference will break new ground as we will have women in pain attendees of every shape, size, color, age and sexual orientation,” said Cynthia Toussaint, Founder and Spokesperson at For Grace. “Pain knows no boundaries, and the unfortunate disparity toward women who experience persistent pain is universal.”

“Increasingly, we are seeing women of all ages and races hurt more, and getting helped less,” said Loretta Jones, Executive Director, Healthy African American Families. “The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Women in Pain conference is about helping women take control of their healthcare and demanding effective treatment so that no woman suffers in pain unjustly.”

More than 500 women in pain, caregivers and healthcare providers will attend the conference, and speakers will include:

- **Diane Hoffman**: Co-Author, “The Girl Who Cried Pain: A Bias Against Women in the Treatment of Pain”
- **Dr. Patricia Wynn-Jones**: Chief of Pain Management, Olympia Medical Center
- **Cheryl England**: Editor-in-Chief, Southern California Physician Magazine
- **Denise Dador**: Health Specialist, KABC7 TV

September is Pain Awareness Month in the United States. More than 76 million people in the United States suffer from chronic pain, and most of those who go undiagnosed or never receive

proper treatment are women and minorities. According to the National Institutes of Health, women experience more pain than men and are more prone to pain disorders such as fibromyalgia, pelvic pain and rheumatoid arthritis. But because of cultural, economic and political barriers, women are less likely to receive treatment.

For more information, please visit: [www.forgrace.org](http://www.forgrace.org), and to register for the conference, please visit: [http://www.haaf2.org/090918\\_registration.html](http://www.haaf2.org/090918_registration.html) **Pre-registration is required and must be submitted by September 11<sup>th</sup>.**

### **About For Grace**

Founded in 2002, For Grace is a nonprofit organization passionately devoted to ensuring the ethical and equal treatment of all women in pain. Their main goal is to increase awareness of the gender disparity women experience worldwide in the assessment and treatment of their pain. For Grace provides the foundation for women to have their pain managed effectively and without bias through self-empowerment, public awareness, healthcare professional education, and legislative advocacy.

[www.forgrace.org](http://www.forgrace.org)

### **About Healthy African American Families**

HAAF began in 1992 as a three-year ethnographic research project in Los Angeles, funded by the Centers for Disease Control. The study was designed to produce an alternative to research methods of poor health outcomes for black infants. Researchers and the African American community worked collaboratively as equal partners, gathering information and ideas about the social, cultural, health and political factors that could lead to low birth weights and deaths for African American infants in Los Angeles. Through ingenuity and capacity-building partnerships, HAAF has grown to become a significant gatekeeper of Community in Los Angeles. HAAF gives voice to Community concerns in national and international arenas, and takes its role as guardian of Community values very seriously.

[www.haaf2.org](http://www.haaf2.org)

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