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**For Grace to Host 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Women in Pain Conference: Gender Matters  
On Sept. 17 to Advance the Principles and Practices of Integrative Medicine**

*Women in Pain, Their Caregivers and Healthcare Providers  
Will Gather in Los Angeles to Educate, Support and Empower Women  
to Take Responsibility for Their Own Health and Spiritual Wellness*

LOS ANGELES (July 1, 2010) – For Grace, a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring the ethical and equal treatment of women in pain, today announced the 3rd Annual **Women In Pain Conference: Gender Matters – Raising the Curtain on Pain**. The conference, which will be held **September 17, 2010**, at the California Endowment’s Center for Healthy Communities in downtown Los Angeles, will feature keynote speakers, workshops, breakout sessions, live performances, and a patient/doctor dramatization that will focus on the interconnection between the mind, body and spirit – a holistic treatment option known as integrative medicine.

“Many Americans have never heard of integrative medicine,” said Cynthia Toussaint, Founder and Spokesperson at For Grace. “But many highly regarded hospitals, universities and medical schools such as UCLA, Duke, Harvard and Columbia have formed integrative medicine centers and promote treating the whole person on a national level.” According to the American Hospital Association, the percentage of U.S. hospitals that have integrative medicine centers has more than doubled from 8.6 percent in 1998 to 20.9 percent in 2008.

Integrative medicine combines conventional Western medicine with evidence-based complimentary and alternative therapies such as special diets, physical therapy, yoga, tai chi, meditation, chiropractic care, acupuncture, massage, guided imagery, and creative art therapies to treat the whole person, not just the disease.

The 3rd Annual Women in Pain conference will feature many distinguished researchers, speakers, medical practitioners, legislators and celebrities. The conference program will also integrate the creative arts – dance, theatre, music, visual arts and standup comedy – to paint literal and metaphorical murals of the Women in Pain experience.

This year’s theme, “Raising the Curtain on Pain,” is inspired by founder Toussaint’s first-in-25-years partial remission. She has been a pain sufferer since the age of 21 when a minor ballet injury turned into a lifetime of chronic pain.

The day-long conference will kick-off at 9:00 am on Sept. 17 and will begin with a welcome address by **Denise Dador**, KABC Health Specialist. Later in the day, **California Senators Liz Figueroa and Fran Pavley**, along with **Los Angeles City Controller Wendy Greuel**, will share powerful Women In Pain stories. **Radene Marie Cook**, a mixed media artist and Founder of the Intractable People with Pain Union, will create a community wall mural during the conference that all women in pain will contribute to. Actor **Kevin Dobson** (*Knots Landing, Cold Case*) will be featured in our dramatization.

Actress & comedienne **Geri Jewell** (*The Facts of Life, Deadwood*), a woman in pain who was the first person with a disability to have a regular role on a prime time series, will serve as the conference emcee.

Additional distinguished speakers include:

**Dr. David Bresler** – Founder, UCLA's Pain Control Unit

**Bonnie Cardenas** – President, Cardenas & Associates Physical Therapy

**Dr. Susan Nyanzi** – Research Analyst, LA County Department of Health

**Dr. Steven Richeimer** – Director, USC California Pain Management Center

**Dr. Steven Sultanoff** – Clinical Psychologist & Therapeutic Humorist

**Cynthia Toussaint** – Founder& Spokesperson, For Grace

**Dr. Lonne Zeltzer** – Director, Whole Child LA (formerly UCLA's Pediatric Pain Center)

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## **Program**

For the complete conference program, session descriptions, and list of performances, [click here](#) or visit <http://forgrace.org/women/in/pain/C248>.

This program meets qualifications for five (5) consecutive hours of continuing education credit for Registered Nurses as required by California Board of Registered Nursing.

## **Registration**

*Conference registration will begin today, July 1, 2010.* The registration fees are as follows:

Registered Nurses with CEU

\$125 (\$110 early-bird discount until August 1)

Healthcare Professionals with no CEU

\$75 (\$65 early-bird discount until August 1)

Women in pain and their caregivers are **FREE**

To register for the conference, click here or visit <http://forgrace.kintera.org/registration>.

Reporters seeking to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Women in Pain Conference must contact John Garrett at 818.760.7635 or [jgarrett@forgrace.org](mailto:jgarrett@forgrace.org).

## **About For Grace**

Founded in 2002, For Grace is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization whose mission is to ensure the ethical and equal treatment of all women in pain. For Grace has educated, supported and empowered thousands of women in pain through the use of public advocacy, legislative outreach, and mass media. For more information, visit For Grace online at [www.forgrace.org](http://www.forgrace.org).