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**For Grace to Host 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Event “Change Agent Pain Summit” and Webcast:  
“Your Voice, Your Solutions to Improving Pain Care”**

*The September 22 summit will gather people with chronic pain and their caregivers to discuss barriers to pain care and find solutions for a better tomorrow*

LOS ANGELES (August 29, 2017) – For Grace will host its 10<sup>th</sup> annual event, Change Agent Pain Summit: Part One, on September 22nd at the California Endowment’s Center for Healthy Communities in downtown Los Angeles and via live worldwide webcast.

*For program, registration and conference fee information, including free pass availability, please visit [forgrace.org](http://forgrace.org).*

Part one of this two-phase summit will bring together people impacted by chronic pain and their caregivers to learn about the National Institutes of Health’s groundbreaking National Pain Strategy and the benefits of integrative pain management which utilizes alternative and complementary therapies. Ultimately, the day aims to find out from real-life chronic pain sufferers what barriers they face to getting optimal care and how to accelerate solutions for better pain control.

Information gleaned from this September event will then be shared with a broad spectrum of healthcare and policy luminaries during our Part Two summit in November 2018 with a goal of crafting actionable items to improve pain management in California.

"For the past 15 years, the most common complaint I’ve heard from people in pain are their many barriers to quality care. More specifically, these folk tell me they want to try integrative care, but alternative therapies aren’t covered by their insurance plans. Our goal with this summit is to eradicate this problem by implementing the National Pain Strategy in California and become a model for the rest of the country", says For Grace Founder and Spokesperson, Cynthia Toussaint.

According to a groundbreaking 2011 report by the Institute of Medicine, more than 100 million people in the United States suffer from chronic pain along with inadequate care. Once U.S. Health and Human Services had this report in hand, they appointed a working pain group at the NIH to craft a definitive report on recommendations to improve pain care, research and understanding. The resulting National Pain Strategy, released in 2016, keyed on six areas for improving the lives of those impacted by chronic pain.

The day-long Summit will kick-off at 9 am on Sept. 22nd. During the morning session, a mixed panel of people with pain and caregivers will discuss specific barriers they have faced in getting quality pain care and how they managed these challenges. Later that morning, the Summit’s keynote speaker, **Dr. Bob Twillman**, Executive Director of the Academy of Integrative Pain Management, will give an overview about the National Pain Strategy and the benefits of integrative medicine as a “best practice” model for pain management.

Mid-day, **Dr. Susan Samuelli**, Founder of UC Irvine’s Center for Integrative Medicine, will be the 2017 recipient of the “Patron of Women’s Rights” Award. Following lunch, a special afternoon interactive session, led by Summit facilitator **Mindy Meyer**, Program Manager at the Center for Collaborative Policy, CSU Sacramento, will glean from attendees their experiences in not getting optimal pain care, how they managed these barriers and what ideas they have to improve access to over-all wellness and pain control.

Also featured that day will be an award-winning art gallery by person in pain **Radene Marie Cook** that depicts the chronic pain experience, photography by person in pain **Dana Gambill** and a healing presentation by Spiritualist and Kundalini yoga instructor **True**.

Additional speakers and panelists include:

**Jon Bassinger-Flores** – Program and Services Coordinator at Ithaca College, Los Angeles, and Caregiver to Person In Pain

**Dr. Narcisso Flores-Bassinger** – Expressive Arts Consultant with Path Back to Wellness and Person In Pain

**Rhona Lopez** – CEO, KM Hub LLC Management and Person In Pain

**Katie O’Leary** – Columnist at the *National Pain Report* and Person In Pain

**Cynthia Toussaint** – Founder and Spokesperson, For Grace and Person In Pain

**About For Grace**

Founded in 2002, For Grace is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization that promotes better care and wellness for 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, please visit [www.forgrace.org](http://www.forgrace.org).

Reporters seeking to attend and/or cover the Change Agent Pain Summit: Part One are advised to contact For Grace Director John Garrett at 818.760.7635 or [forgracewip@yahoo.com](mailto:forgracewip@yahoo.com)

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