

Contact: John Garrett @ 818.760.7635

**For Grace to Host “Change Agent Pain Summit: Part Two” and Webcast:
“Transforming California Pain Care for a Better Tomorrow”**

The November 2nd Summit will convene luminaries from healthcare sectors that have a stake in improving pain care for the millions in California impacted by chronic pain

LOS ANGELES (August 28, 2018) – For Grace will host its Change Agent Pain Summit: Part Two, on Friday, November 2nd at the California Endowment’s Center for Healthy Communities in downtown Los Angeles (1000 North Alameda Street) and via live worldwide webcast.

For event details, including agenda, please visit forgrace.org.

For Grace's invitation-only Change Agent Pain Summit: Part Two aims to convene 100+ California thought-leaders and luminaries (physicians, payers, administrators, policy makers, etc.) from various healthcare sectors that have a stake in pain management. Utilizing a focus group format, the Summit’s goal is to share ideas and best practices on how to optimize key recommendations from the National Institutes of Health's National Pain Strategy in the Golden State.

Leaders in pain management, research and advocacy strongly believe the National Pain Strategy provides a remarkable blueprint for optimal pain assessment, care and understanding moving forward – and it is For Grace’s hope that the Summit will provide the spark for its implementation in California and beyond.

In September 2017, Summit: Part One brought together people impacted by chronic pain and their caregivers to learn about the National Pain Strategy and the benefits of integrative pain management which utilizes alternative and complementary therapies. Ultimately, the day discovered 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 that September event will be shared at this year’s summit

The Change Agent Pain Summit: Part Two has an ambitious goal of crafting actionable items to positively transform pain management in California based on these objectives:

- *Improve pain care for California’s six to seven million individuals challenged by chronic pain*
- *Implement core recommendations from the National Institutes of Health’s National Pain Strategy in the Golden State*
- *Promote the Integrative Pain Care model to decrease the burden of opioid use*

“With the current opioid crisis, it’s more urgent than ever for us to find alternatives to pain care”, says For Grace Founder and Spokesperson, Cynthia Toussaint. She adds, “The public and medical establishment still don’t know that chronic pain is a disease, one that destroys many of our families, often leaves us in financial ruin with permanent disability, isolation, anxiety and depression. The National Pain Strategy, which calls integrative care best practice for pain relief, is THE answer. This Summit will lead to its implementation in California, the biggest state in the union, and be a model for the rest of the nation.”

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, with an emphasis on decreasing opioid use and promoting integrative pain care.

The day-long Summit will kick-off at 9am on November 2nd. During the morning session, a keynote speech providing a comprehensive overview of the National Pain Strategy as well as a current assessment of pain management will be presented jointly by **Dr. Sean Mackey**, Chief of Division Pain Management, Stanford University, and **Christin Veasley**, Oversight Panel Member, National Pain Strategy and Co-Founder & Director, Chronic Pain Research Alliance.

Later that morning, a Summit panel will cover key Strategy recommendations (Service Delivery and Payment, Prevention and Care, Medical Education and Disparities.) Panelists include Dr. Mackey, **Dr. Wayne Jonas**, Executive Director, Samueli Integrative Health Programs, **Dr. Steven Richeimer**, Chief of Pain Medicine, University of Southern California, **Dr. Roger Fillingim**, Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science, University of Florida, and **Diane Hoffmann**, Law Professor, University of Maryland.

Mid-day, **California State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson** will be the 2018 recipient of For Grace's "Patron of Women's Rights" Award. During lunch, Dr. Jonas will present the virtues and benefits of the integrative care model, followed by a signing of his new book, "How Healing Works: Get Well and Stay Well Using Your Hidden Power to Heal."

Following lunch, special afternoon discussion groups comprised of Summit luminaries, led by facilitator **Mindy Meyer**, Program Manager at the Center for Collaborative Policy, CSU Sacramento, will provide input, share best practices, create solutions and "cross-pollenate" to forward deliverable actions to implement the National Pain Strategy's key recommendations. A post-conference "white paper" will be crafted as a blue print to execute these actions.

Also featured during the day will be an award-winning art gallery by woman in pain **Radene Marie Cook** as well as video testimonials spotlighting people in pain and their caregivers. Both will share the real-life, day-to-day challenges of life with high-impact chronic pain.

The Change Agent Pain Summit: Part Two has been generously underwritten by The Samueli Foundation and The Lawrence A. Appleby Foundation.

For those who would like to view the Summit, a free, live, world-wide webcast will be available via For Grace's website. The webcast is made possible through a collaboration with TVPLive.com.

About For Grace

Founded in 2002, For Grace is an internationally 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 forgrace.org.

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