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NEWS RELEASE

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WORLD HEALTH DAY PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON HEALTH WORKFORCE AAHC WARNS NATIONAL AND GLOBAL CRISES MUST BE ADDRESSED

WASHINGTON, Apr. 7 – Today, the Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC) joins the World Health Organization and colleagues from around the globe in marking World Health Day 2006. “This year’s focus on the global health workforce crisis could not be timelier or more urgent,” says Steven A. Wartman, MD, PhD, president of the association. Most experts agree that the United States faces – or soon will face – shortages in virtually all health professions, yet this nation has not addressed the looming crisis. The scenario is exacerbated when examined in a global context.

“The importation of physicians, nurses and other health professionals from other countries is a temporary fix at best while creating an array of troubling issues. We need to be cognizant that other nations face their own challenges in attempting to address health workforce needs. We need to address these from a global perspective,” adds Wartman.

The AAHC issued a call to action to increase our nation’s health workforce – and thus expand the capacity of our health system to care for all Americans – when it launched a major workforce initiative last fall. In addressing the U.S. crisis the AAHC will be working with academe, government, and the private sector to take account of the global implications and making recommendations on ways to resolve major problem areas.

“It is important to celebrate the health workforce throughout the world on this important day and to commit to finding solutions that can address global health needs,” says Wartman.

The Association of Academic Health Centers is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the nation’s health and well-being by mobilizing and enhancing the strengths and resources of the academic health center enterprise in health professions education, patient care, and research.

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