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## **AIDS lecture to highlight ambitious treatment programs in Africa**

HOUSTON -- (Oct. 18, 2005) – An upcoming lecture will address a promising collaborative AIDS initiative coordinated through Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) in Houston. The program will be held on Nov. 8 at Rice University.

*On the Cusp of Hope: Corporate and Academic Partnerships Against Global HIV/AIDS*, part of the Rice University Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management Dean's Lecture Series, will focus on the care and support of HIV/AIDS patients in impoverished countries. Officials from BCM and its corporate partners in the initiative, Abbott Laboratories and Bristol-Myers Squibb, will speak.

"This program will highlight the unique partnership of this new initiative," said Dr. Mark Kline, director of the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) and professor of pediatrics at BCM. "We believe that this partnership has produced noteworthy results in expanding access to treatment for HIV-infected children around the world."

Program topics and speakers at the lecture include:

- *Impact of HIV/AIDS on Children and Families Globally* – Kline
- *Secure the Future: Care and Support for African Women and Children Affected by HIV/AIDS* – John Damonti, president, Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation
- *Step Forward: A Program for Orphaned, Abandoned and HIV-Infected Children in the Developing World* – Jeff Richardson, executive director, Abbott Fund Step Forward

- *Implementing the Vision of the Secure the Future and Step Forward Programs: Baylor College of Medicine's Response – Kline*
- Discussion

In June, Bristol-Myers Squibb and BCM announced a groundbreaking, multi-part program to provide medical care for African children with HIV/AIDS, sending up to 250 doctors to Africa to treat approximately 80,000 children over the next five years and training local health care professionals. Four new children's clinical centers of excellence will also be built as part of the \$40 million program.

So far, recruitment of physicians has gone well, and construction of several clinics has begun in several regions in Africa, said Kline. The first two clinics are set to open in December with more to follow in the spring.

Over the past ten years, BIPAI, along with the Abbott Laboratories' "Step Forward Program" and the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, has become the world's most active organization in caring for and treating children and families with HIV/AIDS in the most resource-deprived settings of the globe. These activities include treating the greatest population of AIDS-infected children in Europe, building the only dedicated pediatric AIDS clinic in Africa and implementing the largest pediatric drug trial on the African continent.

The lecture, held in the Shell Auditorium of the Janice and Robert McNair Hall at Rice, is open to the public at no cost. RSVP by calling 713-798-3160 or e-mailing [howell@bcm.edu](mailto:howell@bcm.edu). The program starts at 5:30 p.m. with a one-hour reception at 6:30 p.m. For driving directions and parking information, visit [www.jonesgsm.rice.edu/deanslecture](http://www.jonesgsm.rice.edu/deanslecture).

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