Ebola Focus of Public Lecture at College of Physicians

Philadelphia, PA – With so much attention on the Ebola outbreak in Western Africa, and several reported cases here in the US, many are still seeking answers to their questions. The College of Physicians of Philadelphia will address these questions at a special lecture, “Ebola: Let’s Talk About This Virus...,” on December 8th, 2014 at 6:30pm. The conversation will seek to answer several questions, including:

- What are hemorrhagic fevers?
- Why are they unique and why do they incite fear?
- What is the impact of geographic location?
- How can ebola be prevented, controlled and treated?
- What does the future hold in terms of treatment options?

Two of the nation’s top experts will lead the conversation. Harvey Rubin, MD, PhD, is Professor of Medicine, Microbiology, and Computer Science as well as Director of the Institute for Strategic Threat Analysis and Response at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Rubin will explain hemorrhagic fevers, and how they affect the body. Dr. Rubin is also the founder of Energize the Chain, a non-profit organization that powers vaccine refrigerators using energy available at mobile cell towers in Africa and India.

Eileen C. Farnon, MD, DTM&H, is Associate Professor of Medicine, Section of Infectious Diseases at Temple University, and former head of the Epidemiology Unit in the Viral Special Pathogens Branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Farnon has spent many years in Africa studying several Ebola outbreaks, including recent trips to better understand this current epidemic. “The main way we have of controlling the outbreak is by preventing further spread of cases,” Dr. Farnon recently told Time Magazine. “You have to take people who are symptomatic out of the community so they don’t continue to spread disease.”

“The College has been a forum for discussion on important epidemics since its inception,” said George M. Wohlreich, MD, FCPP, Director and CEO of the College, and the Thomas W. Langfitt Chair. The College was instrumental in organizing the city’s response to the yellow fever epidemics of the 1790s, and the cholera epidemics of the 1800s. Since then, the Fellowship of the College has been involved with outbreaks of Spanish influenza, polio, avian flu, and H1N1 (swine flu).
This event is made possible thanks to the generosity of the Thomas Skelton Harrison Foundation and is produced by The College of Physicians of Philadelphia and is free to the public.

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Press are invited to attend and a multi-box will be available for audio recording. Interviews are possible with prior arrangement by contacting J. Nathan Bazzel, Director of Communications, The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 215-567-6429 or email at jbazzel@collegeofphysicians.org.

About The College of Physicians of Philadelphia

The College of Physicians of Philadelphia was founded in 1787, now one of the oldest professional medical organization in the country, when 24 physicians of Philadelphia gathered "to advance the science of medicine and to thereby lessen human misery." Today, more than 1,400 Fellows (elected members) continue to convene at the College and work towards better serving the public.

Throughout its 200 year history, the College has provided a place for both medical professionals and the general public to learn about medicine as both a science and as an art.

This historic spirit continues in our current mission: “advancing the cause of health while upholding the ideals and heritage of medicine.” The College strives to:

• Enable individuals, families and communities to take greater responsibility for their health.
• Improve the health of the public through service to health professionals.
• Enhance appreciation of the heritage of medicine.
• Provide information for the development of health policy.

The College is home to the Mütter Museum and the Historical Medical Library. Our outreach programs include HistoryofVaccines.org, and the Karabots Junior Fellows Program. The public is invited to attend the many lectures, workshops, and conferences the College offers. Our programs reflect our reverence for the past, our commitment to the present, and our vision for the future of medicine and health.

Additional information about The College of Physicians of Philadelphia can be found at www.collegeofphysicians.org.