



**For Immediate Release
June 7, 2006**

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SHONDA SCHILLING AND NANCY ACHIN AUDESSE TOP LIST OF SPEAKERS AT 2ND ANNUAL CLINICAL RESEARCH EDUCATION AND AWARENESS DAY

Over 350 Bay State Residents Turn Out for Educational Workshops, Free Health Screenings and Presentations by Boston's Leading Clinical Researchers

Boston, MA – June 7, 2006 – Over 350 Bay State residents braved the wet weather and closed roads on Saturday to hear inspirational stories from three-time cancer survivor Nancy Achin Audesse and SHADE Foundation of America co-founder Shonda Schilling at the 2nd Annual *AWARE for All* Clinical Research Education and Awareness Day. The event, held at Northeastern University, was hosted by The Center for Information & Study on Clinical Research Participation (CISCRP) and co-sponsored by Northeastern's Bouvé College of Health Sciences.

“Saturday’s attendance marked a significant increase over last year and attests to the enduring need for quality information on clinical research participation,” said CISCRP president Roni Thaler. “*AWARE for All* offers consumers independent, unbiased information on the clinical research process so that they can make informed decisions on their own participation or the participation of a loved one.”

In an exit survey, 84 percent of attendees ranked the event as “*excellent*” or “*very good*.” Additional feedback highlighted the spirit of learning and hope that permeated the day’s events. One individual noted: “I braved a monsoon to get here. Next year, the elements can throw in a hurricane, tornado, and tsunami... I’ll be here!”

Nancy Achin Audesse, a nationally recognized patient’s rights advocate and Executive Director of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine, kicked off the event by recounting her personal battles with cancer both inside and out of the clinical trial setting. Achin Audesse also led a recognition ceremony honoring those in the audience who had taken part in clinical research studies and given the “gift of participation”. CISCRP Board Chair Ken Getz noted, “Without the people who take part in clinical research studies the advancements in medical science would not have occurred. CISCRP will continue to recognize these individuals as medical heroes.”

Throughout the day, attendees lined up for seven distinct workshops led by members of Boston’s world-renowned clinical research community, participated in free health screenings from Walgreen’s and the Massachusetts Melanoma Foundation, and browsed information booths manned by local health organizations and hospitals.

Another program highlight was a panel of clinical research volunteers who recounted their personal experiences, followed by Shonda Schilling's keynote address on the need for sun safety and skin cancer prevention. Schilling cited her own battles with stage-two malignant melanoma, the importance of patient education, the impact it had on her family and her subsequent efforts to protect others from a similar fate through the implementation of sun safety programs in America's public schools.

For additional details on the AWARE for All program, including a full list of speakers and organizational partners, please visit <http://www.ciscrp.org/programs/awareness.asp>.

About CISCRP

CISCRP is an independent, non-profit organization founded in 2003 for the purpose of promoting understanding and awareness of the clinical research process by providing educational information to the public, patients, medical and research professionals as well as increasing recognition of the important role that clinical research participants play in advancing medical science and expanding collaboration among all members of the clinical research enterprise. CISCRP doesn't conduct clinical trials nor does it recruit patients for clinical trials. CISCRP has educational materials suited for both the public and professional for additional information please visit www.SmartParticipant.org.