



National
Association
of Public
Hospitals
and Health
Systems

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LARRY S. GAGE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AFTER 30 YEARS AS NAPH PRESIDENT

Washington, D.C. – Larry S. Gage, who founded the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH) in 1981 and has served for 30 years as NAPH’s President, announced today that he would retire from that position on July 1 of this year. Dr. Bruce Siegel, who joined NAPH on October 1, 2010 as the association’s first Chief Executive Officer, will also assume the title of President in a transition ceremony at NAPH’s 30th Anniversary Annual Conference June 22-24 in Chicago, IL. Gage will continue to practice law as a partner in the health practice group of the law firm of Ropes and Gray LLP, where he will continue to provide legal counsel and policy advice to NAPH and other clients.

“It is exactly 30 years since I opened NAPH’s first office in January, 1981,” said Gage. “I feel extraordinarily fortunate to have worked for three decades with some of the finest and most compassionate leaders in the nation’s health industry. We have worked together for 30 years to ensure that safety net hospitals and health systems would have the political and financial support they need to provide essential safety net services for the vulnerable patients and communities they serve. Such support will continue to be vital for years to come, even as the health system is transformed by health reform.”

“For this reason, I am also excited that we were able to convince Dr. Bruce Siegel to join NAPH last year as Chief Executive Officer and to take over as President when I step down in July. Dr. Siegel has a unique combination of talents and experience that will be essential in guiding NAPH during the coming implementation of health reform.”

“Larry has been an advocate for safety net hospitals and their patients throughout his stellar career,” said Siegel. “As founder of NAPH, Larry has served NAPH and its members with distinction for 30 years—a true testament to his dedication, vision and commitment to ensuring quality health care services for all—especially those most vulnerable in our society. While I am excited to take over the reins as President, I have a tall order to fill—continuing Larry’s legacy of protecting the viability of safety net health systems and their mission to provide care to all in their community.”

“We all owe Larry Gage a huge debt of gratitude and appreciation for what he has done to aid and protect the poor and vulnerable, and to assist them in obtaining quality health care,” said Kirk Calhoun, MD , NAPH Board Chair and CEO of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler. “His list of substantial achievements on behalf of public hospitals and our patients is lengthy and noteworthy. The entire NAPH membership is made up of generations of health care professionals who have drawn their inspiration to serve others from Larry’s leadership and example. Many communities, all over America, are healthier and better because of what he has accomplished over the last 30 years, as the founder and leader of NAPH.”

“We will forever be indebted to Larry for his contribution as founding father of NAPH and for his leadership and stewardship as our association grew to respond to the evolving needs of our members,” said Dr. Lisa E. Harris, CEO and Medical Director of Wishard Health Services in Indianapolis, and Immediate Past Board Chair of NAPH. “Larry’s unwavering commitment was critical not only to strengthening the health care safety net so critical to millions of our most vulnerable citizens, but also in helping us prepare for the future. True to this commitment, Larry worked hard to help us find the next right leader in Dr. Siegel and we are grateful for all he has done to effect a smooth transition.”

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About the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH)

NAPH represents the nation’s largest metropolitan hospitals and health systems that fulfill a safety net mission of providing high volumes of care to low income individuals. These facilities provide high-quality health services for all patients, including the uninsured and underinsured, regardless of ability to pay. In addition to functioning as the country’s default national health insurance system, public hospitals provide many essential community-wide services, such as primary care, trauma care, and neonatal intensive care. Public hospitals also train many of America’s doctors, nurses, and other health care providers. Since its inception in 1980, NAPH has cultivated a strong presence on Capitol Hill, with the executive branch, and in many state capitols. NAPH advocates on behalf of its members on such issues as Medicaid, Medicare, and access to health care services for vulnerable populations. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.naph.org/>.