

Office of Public Relations  
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## Quality and Cost of End-Of-Life Care Subject of Upcoming Stockton Conference

### For Immediate Release

Thursday, May 08, 2008

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**Galloway Twp., NJ** – Issues of quality of life and cost of end-of-life care continue to make front-page news in the wake of the recent release of the updated *Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care*. According to the *Atlas*, NJ hospitals provide dying patients the most extensive and intensive care in the nation – yet this care may not lead to improved quality of life. State Health Commissioner Heather Howard recently concluded that "We are paying more for health care and we are not getting better results. That is of great concern to everyone" she said in published reports.

A discussion of the multiple reasons for these findings will be the focus of a daylong conference entitled "A Troubling Abundance of Care: Over-treatment at the End of Life" to be held at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey on Monday, May 12th. Dartmouth researcher David Goodman, MD, and other prominent educators, physicians, lawyers, and theologians will also address various mechanisms of change.

Dr. Arthur Caplan, Chair of the Department of Medical Ethics and Director of the University of Pennsylvania Center for Bioethics will provide the keynote address. Experts from Penn, Rutgers, UMDNJ, Stockton, Cooper Medical Systems, the Medical Society of NJ and other institutions will speak on such topics as medical and legal issues and concerns, the impact of cultural diversity, religious and spiritual beliefs, and the role of the media as a positive agent of change.

One reason for excessive and/or inappropriate care is that many families do not discuss these issues until an emergency arises. The first annual National Healthcare Decision Day on April 16<sup>th</sup> was designed to encourage Americans to have discussions and to complete "Living Wills" and other important documents before medical emergencies occur (See: [www.nationalhealthcaredecisionday.org](http://www.nationalhealthcaredecisionday.org) for additional information.).

The conference is co-sponsored by the Southern Jersey Ethics Alliance, Stockton's Division of Continuing Studies for Health Sciences & Human Services, the Stockton Center on Successful Aging, the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine - Continuing Medication Education, and AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center. Complete conference description and registration materials are available online at: [www.stockton.edu/hshs](http://www.stockton.edu/hshs), or by calling (609) 652-4227.

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