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Dear Healthcare Leader,

The Global Knowledge Exchange Network on Healthcare (GKEN.org) is a non-profit organization dedicated to cross cultural learning, with a goal of advancing better health system practices. We invite you and your organization to join us in Washington, DC this summer for a two day symposium, *“Accelerating the Rate of Adoption of Improved Health Practices.”*

The recent healthcare debate has reminded us all of the urgent need to address the challenges facing our healthcare system. Patient outcomes must be improved, and effective health promotion programs instituted, while controlling system and health care costs.

We are not alone. Every healthcare system in the world has the same issues. One universally agreed upon approach to answering these challenges is broad implementation of improved practices in all aspects of healthcare: clinical, systems, and programmatic.

Attendees will hear from experts in each of four key areas: *clinical outcomes, health system issues, population health promotion and wellness*. Participants will discuss and debate in work groups how to create a framework for accelerating the identification, adoption, and broad dissemination of better practices, in the US and around the world.

Whether their healthcare system is single payer/government run, private market driven, or a hybrid, all nations’ face a common context within which they must work to improve the health of their people: an aging population burdened with chronic disease; the rising cost and overuse of technology; the public’s unrealistic expectations; and poor personal health habits. GKEN seeks to understand what strategies along a continuum of emerging, better, and best practices are working across the globe—and why. Most importantly, what might be replicated?

As a result of the Symposium, GKEN will develop a “Resource Guide” to sources of improved health and healthcare practices, derived from conference proceedings, and complemented by additional research. This compendium will be published and broadly disseminated electronically on GKEN’s website and throughout the GKEN delegate’s network. This document can serve as a resource for public policy makers, health administrators, and others in developing new approaches based on what has been proven to work “on the ground.”

GKEN recognizes that accelerating the rate of adoption of improved health practices is an enormous undertaking. We welcome your participation as we take the first steps. Please contact me to discuss how your organization can be a part of this unique dialogue.

Sincerely,

Jon Comola, GKEN

Symposium Agenda (draft)

Day One

7:30 Registration

8:30 Welcome; Plenary Opening

8:45 Opening Keynote: Denis Cortese, MD, Past President & CEO Mayo Clinic (invited)

9:45 Concurrent Work Sessions: (Moderated panels of subject experts with audience participation)

- **Clinical Outcomes**
- **Health System Issues**
- **Population (Community) Health Promotion**
- **Wellness**

Each expert and work group will address 3 questions:

- **Where are improved health practices currently sourced?**
- **How are improved practices defined?**
- **How do improved practices get adopted?**

10:45 Break

11:15 Work Sessions continue

1:00 Lunch (on your own)

2:30 Work Sessions continue

5:00 Recess

Day two

7:30 Coffee

8:30 Opening session Key note (tbd)

9:45 Work Groups report out

10:45 Break

11:15 Work Groups reconvene

- **What can be done in the near term to globally accelerate adoption of accepted better practices?**

12:30 Summary report

1:00 Lunch & Keynote: Carolyn Clancy AHRQ (invited)

2:30 Symposium Adjourns