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AIDS WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN PHILADELPHIA

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is the topic of a one-day workshop for nurses and social workers in Philadelphia, on February 24. A large number of persons have preregistered for this event, the latest in a series of meetings on AIDS sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), a part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Md.

Experts from NIAID, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, and Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital in New York will discuss the epidemiology of AIDS and ethical, legal and psychosocial issues that concern nurses, social workers, physicians, and others who care for persons with AIDS.

Participants in the conference will meet in small, interdisciplinary groups to examine case management issues specifically related to the care of persons with AIDS. Workshop sessions will focus on perinatal and pediatric AIDS, infection precautions, cross-cultural issues, death and dying, and local issues.

AIDS is caused by a virus that destroys the immune system and allows usually controllable infections to invade the body and cause debilitating and life-threatening illnesses. More than 30,000 persons in the United

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States have been diagnosed with AIDS since 1981, although scientists estimate that thousands more are infected with the AIDS virus. About half of those diagnosed with AIDS have died. There is no cure at present.

The NIAID is a leading research center for studies on AIDS. Led by its Director, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, NIAID scientists are studying the AIDS virus and its effects on the immune system, searching for effective treatments, and developing possible vaccines. Another important part of the NIAID program is to bring up-to-date information on AIDS to health care professionals who care for persons with AIDS. Nineteen symposia on AIDS have been organized by the NIAID since 1983.

The symposia are presented to physicians, registered nurses, practical nurses, infection control nurses, medical technologists, dentists, dental hygienists, laboratory technicians, social workers, drug counselors, policemen, firemen, morticians, and other service and support personnel who may feel at risk or wish to be informed.

Co-sponsors of the February 24 workshop are the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, and the Schools of Nursing and Social Work at the University of Pennsylvania, in cooperation with local agencies and hospitals.