



Health Assessment Lab

Health Assessment Lab announces appointment of Executive Director, implements strategic plan

Waltham, MA. -July, 2005 - The Health Assessment Lab, under the leadership of John E. Ware, Jr., Ph.D., has announced the appointment of Martha Byington as its Executive Director. Miss Byington succeeds George Adler who was asked by Dr. Ware and the Health Assessment Lab Board to perform an analysis of the Health Assessment Lab and determine a strategic plan for the organization. A key element of the strategic plan was to select a permanent Executive Director with leadership experience in an academic, research or health care organization with a grant funded research component. Miss Byington was selected by Dr. Ware and Dr. Adler to implement the company's strategic plan and to build on the infrastructure improvements initiated by Dr. Adler. A key element in Dr. Adler's work was to perform an analysis of the relationship between Health Assessment Lab and QualityMetric, and to determine where there was synergy between the two entities and how the differences between the mission and vision of each could build on the strengths of the other.

Adler commented, "I very much enjoyed my tenure with Health Assessment Lab. I am very grateful for the cooperation and assistance I received from the staff and leadership of both Health Assessment Lab and QualityMetric, as well as the members of the Health Assessment Lab Board. Clearly, the staffs at the two institutions take great pride in their work and in their national and international reputation in the field of patient-reported-outcome surveys. I believe the strategic plan as designed allows optimal use of key resources, most notably our scientists."

Byington's responsibilities will build on the strategic plan created by Dr. Adler. Key to the success of Health Assessment Lab will be creation of a larger Board, charged with evaluating a new strategic focus for HAL, and identification of opportunities to build the science of HAL, using Dr. Ware as the visionary and centerpiece for attracting new scientists.

Martha Byington comes to Health Assessment Lab with an extensive background in health care finance, operations, medical malpractice, patient safety and quality improvement. She began in health care as Internal Auditor at Cambridge City Hospital, moving to Massachusetts General Hospital where she held increasingly responsible administrative and financial positions until 1995. Following her career at MGH, she became a Loss Prevention Specialist at Harvard's Risk Management Foundation with a focus on quality improvement and medical malpractice risk reduction in physician practices. She has most recently been the Director of Clinical Quality and Integration at Caritas Christi Health Care System, where she oversaw the integration of clinical data and facilitated system-wide quality improvement efforts at six hospitals.

She is a graduate of Smith College and received her MBA with highest honors from Suffolk University. She is a member of the Board of PrimeCare, which coordinates services for senior patients and their families at the MGH, and of the MSPCA's Board of Overseers. She has written and lectured extensively on office-based quality improvement and medical malpractice risk reduction.

About the Health Assessment Lab

HAL, under the leadership of John E. Ware, Jr., Ph.D., Chairman of the Board and Senior Scientist,

is a free-standing, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization located in Waltham, MA. It evolved from the first research program launched when The Health Institute at Tufts-New England Medical Center was founded in 1988 and continues to conduct basic and applied health outcomes research. HAL retains close ties to The Health Institute, Tufts University School of Medicine, and other academic medical centers.

About the Medical Outcomes Trust

The MOT is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving health and health care by promoting the science of outcomes measurement, and the development, evaluation and distribution of standardized, high quality instruments that measure health outcomes. The Trust was incorporated in Massachusetts in 1992 as a public service organization and in 2000 became affiliated with HAL.

About QualityMetric Incorporated

QualityMetric has integrated the consumer's voice into health care decision-making with self-reported health outcomes surveys used worldwide to measure health status with scientific validity in clinical practice, disease management, population monitoring, risk assessment, clinical trials, and direct-to-consumer marketing. Founded in 1997 by John E. Ware, Jr., PhD, principal developer of the SF-36[®], SF-12[®], and SF-8[™] Health Surveys, QualityMetric's scientific expertise and product developments have greatly increased the value and precision of health-related quality of life (HRQoL) measurement while its software applications, including the world's first computerized dynamic health assessments, have greatly lowered the costs of outcomes monitoring.

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