

Media Advisory/REQUEST FOR COVERAGE

October 3, 2007

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Number of Texans with diabetes is *frightening* *A growing epidemic: How can we prevent it?*

Physicians, researchers and other healthcare professionals from across the nation are headed to Harlingen – the front lines in the diabetes epidemic – to hear from the experts how best to treat and prevent this deadly and debilitating disease. Researchers and physicians from the world-renowned Texas Diabetes Institute in San Antonio are hosting a half day regional training conference, in an effort to help their counterparts from other parts of the country cope with the growing number of diabetes patients they are seeing in their communities.

Key Diabetes Facts:

- Diabetes is the sixth leading cause of death in Texas
- Hispanics are more at-risk for developing diabetes
- More than 5,000 people die each year directly from diabetes complications
- More than 21 million Americans (seven percent of the population) have diabetes
- Millions more have it, but have not been diagnosed. That's why it is called a Silent Killer
- The number of Texans with diabetes is the second-highest in the U.S.

Conference faculty will be led by Dr. Ralph DeFronzo, an internationally renowned research scientist dedicated to the elimination of diabetes and its complications. Professor of Medicine, Chief Diabetes Division, UT Health Science Center at San Antonio and Deputy Director, of the Texas Diabetes Institute in San Antonio.

- WHO:** **More than 150 physicians and other health professionals dedicated to the prevention of diabetes**
- WHAT:** **Type 2 Diabetes: Prevention, Intervention & Outcomes National Conference**
- WHERE:** **The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Regional Academic Health Center, 2102 Treasure Hill Boulevard, Harlingen. (For directions, please call 956-365-8650).**
- WHEN:** **Saturday, October 6, from 8 a.m. - 12 noon**