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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Rhode Island Medical Society and Accreditation Council for CME Hold Leadership Forum
for Continuing Medical Education Accreditors**

***Guest Speaker Freda Bush, MD, Federation of State Medical Boards, addresses
opportunities for CME to support physicians' Maintenance of Licensure***

Providence, RI, August 22, 2011— The Rhode Island Medical Society and the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME®) are holding the "2011 ACCME Regional Forum: CME As a Bridge to Quality – in Action" on August 22–23, at the Rhode Island Medical Society in Providence. During the program, continuing medical education (CME) accreditors will share best practices for accrediting community-based CME programs that contribute to health care quality initiatives.

The forum will draw more than 45 CME accreditation staff and volunteers from Rhode Island and nine other states, including Connecticut, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, Washington, and West Virginia.

Guest speaker Freda Bush, MD, Immediate Past Chair, Federation of State Medical Boards, will discuss opportunities for CME to support physicians' Maintenance of Licensure (MOL). The FSMB's Maintenance of Licensure initiative aims to strengthen the licensure renewal process by implementing new standards for physicians' lifelong learning and practice improvement. [The FSMB recognizes CME as an integral part of this process and the ACCME supports the MOL initiative.](#)

The ACCME, a national accrediting body for organizations that produce continuing medical education, designates state and territory medical societies that meet its high standards as accreditors of local CME programs. There are approximately 1,450 CME providers accredited by 45 ACCME-recognized state or territory medical societies. Each year, these CME providers offer more than 46,000 CME activities in communities throughout the United States, drawing approximately four million health care practitioner participants. With the adaptation of the 2006 ACCME Accreditation Criteria, accredited CME is now strongly positioned to support US health

care quality improvement efforts and to align with emerging continuing professional development systems such as the Federation of State Medical Boards Maintenance of Licensure initiative.

"The FSMB believes that lifelong, continuing medical education is an effective means of physician learning and change as part of a system of continuous professional development," said Humayun Chaudhry, DO, president and CEO of the Federation of State Medical Boards. "As medical boards begin developing maintenance of licensure programs, accredited CME can be an important source of support for physicians' reflective self-assessment and an asset in helping physicians improve their competence, performance, and patient care."

"On behalf of the Rhode Island Medical Society, I would like to thank the ACCME for providing us with the opportunity to host this year's eastern region accreditors' conference. The collegial spirit of these regional forums stimulates many meaningful and productive discussions about the work we do as CME accreditors and provides valuable information on how to improve our programs," Patrick Sweeney, MD, PhD, MPH, RIMS CME Committee Chair.

"The ACCME is producing the 2011 Rhode Island Regional Forum in support of state medical societies' commitment to advancing community-based CME that improves physicians' competence, performance, and patient outcomes," said Murray Kopelow, MD, ACCME Chief Executive. "We are honored that Dr. Bush is joining us as a guest speaker. We believe that accredited CME will serve as a resource to physicians seeking to fulfill the requirements of Maintenance of Licensure. As the national standard bearer, the ACCME accreditation system ensures that continuing medical education at the national and state levels provides physicians and health care teams with practice-based learning and change opportunities, in support of closing the quality gap in US health care."

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The Rhode Island Medical Society

The Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS) is a voluntary, non-profit professional association of medical doctors throughout Rhode Island. Founded in 1812, RIMS is dedicated to the improvement of the public health and the advancement of the profession of medicine through education, advocacy and member services. Members of the Rhode Island Medical Society include medical doctors, osteopathic physicians, physician assistants and medical students.

Federation of State Medical Boards

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) is a national non-profit organization representing the 70 medical and osteopathic boards of the United States and its territories. The FSMB leads by promoting excellence in medical practice, licensure, and regulation as the national resource and voice on behalf of state medical and osteopathic boards in their protection of the public.

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education is a not-for-profit organization based in Chicago that is responsible for accrediting US institutions that offer continuing medical education through a voluntary, self-regulatory system. The ACCME also has a system for recognizing state medical societies as accreditors for local organizations offering CME.

The ACCME's mission is to identify, develop, and promote standards for quality continuing medical education that improves health care for patients and their communities. There are approximately 2,200 accredited CME providers in the United States, whose educational activities draw more than 23 million health care practitioner participants annually.

The ACCME's member organizations include the American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Association for Hospital Medical Education, the Council of Medical Specialty Societies and the Federation of State Medical Boards of the U.S. Inc.

For more information, visit www.accme.org.