



News Release

Media Contact:

Drew Carlson, Director of Communications
(817) 868-4043 or dcarlson@fsmb.org

For Immediate Release:

May 16, 2006

Federation of State Medical Boards Foundation Receives Grant to Educate Physicians on Appropriate Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices

DALLAS – The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) Research and Education Foundation was recently awarded a \$362,000 grant as part of a national program designed to educate health care professionals about pharmaceutical industry marketing practices and provide tools for accessing unbiased sources of information about drugs.

The grant is part of a 2004 consumer protection settlement with Warner-Lambert (a division of Pfizer, Inc.) that resolved allegations of deceptive “off-label” marketing of the drug Neurontin. More than \$9 million will be distributed during the next two years to grant recipients from the Attorney General Consumer and Prescriber Education Program. The FSMB is one of 24 first-round grant recipients.

The Foundation will develop the Online Prescriber Education Network (OPEN), a Web-based portal that will provide educational programs to practicing physicians about pharmaceutical industry marketing techniques and their effect on prescribing practices. The portal will include unbiased and authoritative sources of information about medications, strategies and tools for evidence-based prescribing, and adverse event assessment and reporting. OPEN will be available to all licensed medical prescribers in the nation.

“The FSMB’s 70 member medical boards are uniquely positioned, in partnership with the FSMB, to make these important educational resources available to the more than 700,000

licensed physicians who practice and prescribe under the jurisdiction of state medical boards in the United States,” said James N. Thompson, M.D., president and CEO of the FSMB.

The mission of the Foundation is to expand public and medical professional knowledge and awareness of problems in the field of health care and health care regulation by conducting or promoting scientific research and education, making results of such research available to the public, and providing educational forums for further dialogue leading to the promotion of high standards for the safety and welfare of the public.

The Federation of State Medical Boards, which works in concert with the Foundation on educational initiatives, is a national not-for-profit association representing the 70 state medical boards in the United States and its territories. Recent educational initiatives undertaken by the Foundation included a nationwide series of workshops on appropriate pain management.

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) is a national not-for-profit organization representing the 70 medical boards of the United States and its territories. The FSMB's mission is to continuously improve the quality, safety and integrity of health care by developing and promoting high standards for physician licensure and practice. For more information, visit the FSMB's website at www.fsmb.org.

###