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**World Renowned HIV Epidemiologist at Beth Israel Medical Center
Appointed to U.S.-sponsored HIV/AIDS Scientific Advisory Board**

Don Des Jarlais, Ph.D. to Consult on New Worldwide Initiative

New York, NY – January 10, 2011 – Don C. Des Jarlais, Ph.D., Director of Research with the Baron Edmond de Rothschild Chemical Dependency Institute at Beth Israel Medical Center and a world leader in research on the epidemiology of HIV transmission among injection drug users, has been appointed to the Scientific Advisory Board for The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). This is the first time that a scientific advisory board has been implemented for PEPFAR. Dr. Des Jarlais is also Professor of Epidemiology in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

“Dr. Des Jarlais’ commitment to curtailing the spread of HIV and AIDS among injection drug users is recognized throughout the world,” said Harris M. Nagler, MD, Beth Israel President. “His appointment to President Obama’s PEPFAR scientific advisory board is one of the most prestigious appointments in the field of HIV/AIDS and reflective of the high esteem in which Dr. Des Jarlais and his work is held.”

Dr. Des Jarlais began his research on HIV/AIDS in 1982 and is recognized as a global leader in the epidemiology of HIV transmission among injection drug users. He also is a pioneer in the evaluation of a variety of harm reduction interventions, particularly syringe exchange programs, and was instrumental in the development and expansion of syringe exchange programs in New York City during the 1980s and 1990s. Dr. Des Jarlais has published more than 300 articles on these topics.

In 1989, Dr. Des Jarlais was jointly appointed by President George H.W. Bush and the US Congress to serve as a Commissioner on the US National Commission on AIDS, a

position he held until 1993. He has testified on many occasions before city and state legislative and Congressional committees on HIV prevention and syringe exchange. Since 1994, his research group at Beth Israel has conducted annual surveys of syringe exchange programs in the United States. He currently serves as a consultant to various institutions, including the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Academy of Sciences and the World Health Organization. Dr. Des Jarlais is currently working on research studies in 20 different countries.

“I am most honored to be selected to serve on the PEPFAR scientific advisory,” said Dr. Des Jarlais. “The commitment of our government and the world healthcare industry to find a cure for HIV/AIDS is remarkable. We’ve come a long way since the early 1980s with recognizing, researching and understanding the disease.”

PEPFAR was a commitment of \$15 billion over five years (2003–2008) from President George W. Bush in order to fight the global HIV/AIDS pandemic and an initiative by the US Government to help save the lives of those suffering from HIV/AIDS around the world. In July 2008, PEPFAR was renewed, revised and expanded as the "Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008". The expansion more than triples the initiative's funds to \$48 billion through 2013. PEPFAR is widely considered to be the most successful humanitarian program of the Bush administration.

PEPFAR is the cornerstone and largest component of the U.S. President’s Global Health Initiative. This historic commitment is the largest by any nation to combat a single disease internationally, and PEPFAR investments also help alleviate suffering from other diseases across the global health spectrum. With a special focus on improving the health of women, newborns and children, the goal is to save the greatest number of lives by increasing and building upon what works and, then, supporting countries as they work to improve the health of their own people. PEPFAR is driven by a shared responsibility among donor and partner nations and others to make smart investments to save lives.