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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2014 Italian Flame Awards!

HOUSTON — August 23, 2014: The celebration was highly contagious at the “ITALIAN CULTURAL & COMMUNITY CENTER’S REACHING OUR VISION, GALA AND CASINO NIGHT”, held at Westin Houston Memorial City Hotel last Saturday night. The evening, organized by the Italian Cultural & Community Center of Houston, celebrated the Italian Influence on Medicine. The response to the new format of the ICCC’s Gala was outstanding, selling out and generating a long waiting list.

Honoring twenty-one Italian and Italian-American professionals who distinguished themselves in the medical field impressed everyone. “As a native Italian and Director of Programs and Marketing of this organization, I’m very proud to see so many Italian-Americans and Italians who have, through the years, produced such distinguished results in the medical, research and scientific field both in Italy and in the United States” says Tiziana Triolo. “We are extremely proud to have introduced this new format which will celebrate each year, a specific field, bringing together the best minds, leaders and professionals who are of Italian descent and whose personal and professional achievements exemplify character, leadership, community service, and the Italian spirit” continues Tiziana Triolo. “I want to personally thank, the honorees, all our guests, supporters and representatives of the different organizations and all who were present and celebrated the 2014 Italian Flame Award recipients with us” concludes Ray Miller, ICCC Executive Director.

“Giving back to the community is what it is all about” said Joanna Palasota, 2014 ICCC President. “The format mentioned by Tiziana is not the only new addition to this year’s Gala. A portion of this year’s proceeds have benefitted the DePelchin Children’s Center, Houston’s largest, most comprehensive provider of children’s mental health, foster care and adoption services”, continues Joanna Palasota.

The annual gala fundraiser raises money to support multiple programs of the ICCC as well as the Center’s “La Scuola d’Italiano”, the scholarship fund and the preservation of the Milford House, home of the ICCC, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated a City of Houston Landmark.

The total proceeds raised this year exceeded our expectations. "It is only possible to achieve this level of success due to the generous donations of local businesses and individuals. A big 'thank you' to the sponsors, donors, and community that support our annual fundraiser", stated Margaret Bannon - ICCC 2014 Gala Co-Chair.

During the celebration the following medical professionals, listed in alphabetical order, received the 2014 Italian Flame Award:

Nicola Abate, M.D.: Professor and Chief, Division of Endocrinology, Department of Internal Medicine at UTMB Health - The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Davide Cattano, M.D., Ph.D.: Associate Professor and Medical Director, Preoperative Anesthesia Clinic, Department of Anesthesiology at UTHealth - The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Luca Cicalese, M.D., F.A.C.S.: Professor of Surgery and Director, Texas Transplant Center and Hepatobiliary Surgery at UTMB Health - The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Philip L. Cimo, M.D., F.A.C.P.: Medical oncologist and hematologist at Texas Oncology.

Giuseppe Colasurdo, M.D.: President of UTHealth - The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; Dean and H. Wayne Hightower Distinguished Professor in the Medical Sciences, UTHealth Medical School.

Andrea Duchini, M.D., F.A.C.P.: Gastroenterologist and Transplant Hepatologist at Gastroenterology and Transplant Hepatology Intl.

Alessandra Ferrajoli, M.D.: Associate Professor, Division of Cancer Medicine, Department of Leukemia at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Mauro Ferrari, Ph.D.: President and CEO of the Houston Methodist Research Institute.

Frank Gusemano, D.D.S.: General Dentistry, Private Practice.

Stephen Incavo, M.D.: Orthopedic Surgeon at Houston Methodist Orthopedics & Sports Medicine.

Anthony Lucci, Sr., M.D.: Obstetrician-Gynecologist at Women's Healthcare Associates.

Maria Adelaide Micci, Ph.D.: Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology at UTMB Health - The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Christopher Patronella, M.D., F.A.C.S, F.I.C.S.: Plastic Surgeon at the Aesthetic Center for Plastic Surgery.

Mark Provenzano, M.D.: Orthopedic Surgeon, the Orthopedic Sports Clinic.

Cristiana Rastellini, M.D.: Professor of Surgery, Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology; Director of Cell Transplant and Transplant Research at UTMB Health - The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Stefano Sdringola-Maranga, M.D., M.H.A.: Professor of Medicine and The Weatherhead Distinguished Chair of Heart Diseases, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine at UTHealth - The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; Associate

Director, Weatherhead P.E.T. Center for Preventing and Reversing Atherosclerosis, UTHealth Medical School.

Giulio Tagliatela, Ph.D.: John Sealy Professor and Vice-Chair for Research, Department of Neurology and Director, The Mitchell Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases at UTMB Health -The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Elizabeth LaTorre Travis, Ph.D., FASTRO: Associate Vice President of Women Faculty Programs, Mattie Allen Fair Professor in Cancer Research, Division of Radiation Oncology, Department of Experimental Radiation Oncology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Fabio Triolo, D.d.R., M.Phil., Ph.D.: Associate Professor, Department of Pediatric Surgery and Director, Cellular Therapy Core at UTHealth - The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Peter T. Triolo, Jr., D.D.S., M.S.: Former Associate Dean, Technology Services and Informatics, Chief Information Officer and Professor, Restorative Dentistry and Prosthodontics, UT Health School of Dentistry, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Retired on July 31st 2013.

Daria Zorzi, M.D.: Research Scientist at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

The Italian Cultural & Community Center is a 501c3 whose mission is to preserve, celebrate and advance Italian culture and heritage. To learn more about Italian Cultural & Community Center's multiple programs and offerings visit our website: www.ICCCHouston.com

PHOTO CREDITS: Roswitha Volger



Picture IDs : 2014 Italian Flame Award Recipients. Seating from left to right: Drs. Nicola Abate, Davide Cattano, Luca Cicalese, Philip L. Cimo, Andrea Duchini, Alessandra Ferrajoli, Mauro Ferrari, Frank Gusemano, Stephen Incavo. Standing from left to right: Drs. Anthony Lucci Sr., Maria Adelaide Micci, Christopher Patronella, Mark Provenzano, Cristiana Rastellini, Stefano Sdringola-Maranga, Giulio Tagliatela, Elizabeth La Torre Travis, Fabio Triolo, Peter T. Triolo Jr., Daria Zorzi and 2014 ICC President Joanna Palasota. (2014 Italian Flame Award recipient Dr. Giuseppe Colasurdo is not in the picture).

More pictures available upon request.