



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HARC Adds UC-Riverside Vice Chancellor, Dean of Medical School to Board
Dr. Richard Olds Appointed to Seat on Valley's Public Health Research Agency

(PALM DESERT, CA) – University of California, Riverside Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine, G. Richard Olds, MD, MACP, has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC). The Palm Desert-based nonprofit organization specializes in public health research for Eastern Riverside County.

Dr. Olds has earned considerable professional acclaim for his groundbreaking work in the field of international public health. He is a tropical disease specialist who has served on the World Health Organization (WHO) expert committee on schistosomiasis, the WHO working group focused on the health of school aged children, as well as the board of a Gates Foundation Initiative to de-worm children in sub-Saharan Africa. He has also authored more than 100 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and reviews, primarily focused on international health issues.

Dr. Olds came to UCR in February 2010 to develop the School of Medicine – the first public medical school in California in more than four decades – to help address the severe doctor shortage in the Inland Empire. In addition, the medical school will develop pipeline programs to bring more diversity into the medical profession, transform the orientation of medical education to emphasize cultural competency, prevention and outcomes, and serve as a catalyst to improve public health throughout the region.

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Dr. Olds is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and trained in Internal Medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. In 1986, Dr. Olds went to Brown University where he rose to full Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics, Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology and headed that institute's International Health Institute. In 1993, he became Professor and Chairman of Medicine at the MetroHealth Campus of Case Western Reserve University and in 2000, was appointed as Professor and Chair of Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

HARC Board President Glen Grayman, MD said Dr. Olds' deep commitment to public health and his understanding of the role research plays in improving the quality and access of care makes him a great fit for the board.

"Dr. Olds embodies the very best of the medical education field," said Dr. Grayman. "He not only brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise related to emerging community health issues, but he will also widen our field of vision when it comes to how HARC research can be more effectively utilized to address them."

The organization recently completed the fieldwork phase on its triennial survey of public health conditions across Eastern Riverside County. Release of those findings will take place in early 2011.

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About HARC

Formed in 2006 by a consortium of more than 30 public and private healthcare agencies, the Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC) conducts a confidential community health status assessment in eastern Riverside County every 3 years to identify major health and quality of life issues. The nonprofit 501©3 organization is funded in part by contributions from community partners, as well as entities who contract with the agency for customized public health research. More information can be obtained by calling HARC at (760) 404-1945, or visiting the organization's website at www.harcddata.org.