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NAMS Spotlights Abuse of Older Women at 2011 Annual Meeting *Symposium Stresses Integrating Healthcare, Legal & Community Responses*

CLEVELAND, OH (August 2, 2011)—Elder abuse is widespread, and women are far more likely than men to be its victims. That's the impetus for "Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation of the Older Female: Integrating Healthcare, Legal & Community Responses," a highly anticipated plenary symposium at the 22nd Annual Meeting of The North American Menopause Society (NAMS), being held September 21–24, 2011, in Washington, DC.

A recent national study found an 11.4% prevalence of elder abuse in the United States.¹ Here are a few other sobering facts, courtesy of the National Center on Elder Abuse:

- 1 to 2 million Americans age 65 or older have been injured, exploited, or otherwise mistreated by someone they depended on for care or protection
- It's estimated that two thirds of the victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation are women
- The most common forms of elder abuse are caregiver neglect (20% of cases), psychological/verbal use (15%), financial exploitation (15%), and physical abuse (11%)

"NAMS recognizes that elder abuse—particularly abuse of older women—is a real healthcare threat, and one that's likely to grow with the aging of the population," says symposium moderator and NAMS Trustee Diane T. Pace, PhD, FNP, NCMP. "We designed this symposium to reflect the reality that addressing this problem requires integrating efforts among healthcare clinicians, law enforcement, and community groups."

The unique symposium will feature medical and legal perspectives drawing on the distinct expertise of two leading national voices on the topic:

Patricia M. Speck, DSNc, APN, FNP-BC, is a family nurse practitioner with internationally recognized expertise in forensic nursing care of victims of sexual and domestic abuse of all ages. She is Associate Professor and Public Health Nursing Option Coordinator, University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Nursing.

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Candace J. Heisler, JD, served as an Assistant District Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco for more than 25 years, including a period leading the Domestic Violence Unit. She is currently Adjunct Professor at the University of California's Hastings College of Law and also teaches for and consults with a wide range of state, local, and national governmental agencies and private groups, with a major focus on elder abuse.

Both speakers also have extensive experience partnering with community organizations to promote prevention of elder abuse, timely identification of abuse, effective intervention, and appropriate care of abuse victims.

“This symposium will engage attendees in case presentations and present healthcare interventions that can lead to favorable outcomes in this population,” notes Dr. Pace.

The symposium will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 AM on Saturday, September 24, at the Gaylord National Hotel in Washington, DC. The full scientific program of the NAMS 2011 Annual Meeting is available at <http://www.menopause.org/meetings/sciprogram.pdf>.

To arrange interviews with the symposium speakers, contact Judy Cerne or Laura Lytle by phone (440-352-2081) or email (jcerne@mckinneyad.com or llytle@mckinneyad.com).

Founded in 1989, The North American Menopause Society (NAMS) is North America's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the health and quality of life of all women during midlife and beyond through an understanding of menopause and healthy aging. Its multidisciplinary membership of 2,000 leaders in the field—including clinical and basic science experts from medicine, nursing, sociology, psychology, nutrition, anthropology, epidemiology, pharmacy, and education—makes NAMS uniquely qualified to serve as the definitive resource for health professionals and the public for accurate, unbiased information about menopause and healthy aging.

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Note: Advance registration is required for all media for the 2011 Annual Meeting. Registration is complimentary to members of the media. Please contact Judy Cerne or Laura Lytle at McKinney-Cerne Inc by phone (440-352-2081) or email (jcerne@mckinneyad.com or llytle@mckinneyad.com) to confirm your attendance and/or to arrange interviews with speakers regarding their presentations.

Members of the scientific and consumer media interested in attending are urged to make travel reservations early. Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Gaylord National in Washington, DC, at 301-965-4000 or via the link on the NAMS website at <http://www.menopause.org/meetings/venue.aspx>. Note: A room reservation does not qualify as registration for the Annual Meeting.

¹ Aciermo et al, *Am J Public Health* 2010;100:292-297.