

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Institute for Continuing Healthcare Education to Partner
With University of Alabama at Birmingham on 2010 Rheumatology Education**

PHILADELPHIA, PA — The Institute for Continuing Healthcare Education (the Institute) and the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) are pleased to announce that they will be working together to plan and develop CME-certified activities geared toward meeting the educational needs of practicing rheumatologists in 2010.

For all proposed activities, UAB's Division of Continuing Medical Education will serve as the accredited provider while the Institute will assist with project and content management. At least one individual from UAB's world-renowned Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology will serve as a faculty member on each initiative.

"In this age of partnerships in CME, we are thrilled to be able to join forces with UAB to further our organization's commitment to providing cutting-edge education that meets the educational needs of practicing rheumatologists," said Institute President Cathy Pagano, CCMEP. "Through our conversations with UAB's leadership, we have been able to brainstorm some innovative and engaging concepts for future education that we feel can truly impact the quality of patient care."

"We are very enthusiastic about the prospect of joining forces with the Institute for Continuing Healthcare Education to produce high-quality educational activities that are effective in enhancing knowledge, building skills, and improving competence of practicing rheumatologists serving patients locally and across the United States," said Monika Safford, MD, UAB's Assistant Dean for Continuing Medical Education. "With combined resources and strengths, we can design, administer, and evaluate programs that truly impact the care provided to patients in this clinical area."

About the Institute for Continuing Healthcare Education

The Institute is an independent medical education provider that has built institutional healthcare partnerships and worked with thought leaders to develop and deliver effective continuing education since 1986. The Institute excels in developing unbiased and balanced education for healthcare professionals across multiple disease categories. The Institute is currently executing three national activities geared toward rheumatologists and rheumatology nurses, including its award-winning *Rheumatology Nurse* newsletter.

About UAB's Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology

UAB's Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology is internationally recognized and dedicated to pursuing new knowledge and translating research findings into more effective diagnosis and treatment of patients with rheumatic diseases. As one of the largest academic rheumatology units in the nation, UAB's Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology registers more than 20,000 patient encounters annually, evaluating and treating patients with rheumatologic conditions including rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, scleroderma, dermatomyositis, polymyositis, vasculitis, osteoarthritis, and osteoporosis.

In 2009, UAB was ranked as the eighth best rheumatology department in the country by U.S. News and World Report. Seven of the Division faculty were also recognized in the latest edition of "Top Doctors in the USA."