NEWS RELEASE

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FOR THE GOOD HEALTH OF NEVADA

School of Medicine to host Western Regional Cystic Fibrosis Conference

Lynette Hein, medical school information
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The University of Nevada School of Medicine will host the 18th annual Cystic Fibrosis Western Regional Caregivers Conference. The conference will take place Feb. 11-13 at the Alexis Park Resort Hotel in Las Vegas.

Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is the most common fatal genetic disease in the U.S. today, affecting some 30,000 individuals. Approximately 12 million people in the U.S., one in every 20, carries the recessive gene that causes the disease.

Research to find a cure for the disease has greatly accelerated since the discovery of the CF gene in August 1989; In 1990, scientists made a copy of a normal gene, added it to CF cells in laboratory dishes, and were able to correct the CF defect in their experiments. The second major step toward such gene therapy is currently underway; researchers are now refining new gene transfer therapy.

School of Medicine faculty who are scheduled to present at the conference are Ruben P. Diaz, M.D., assistant clinical professor and director of the Cystic Fibrosis Center; Cyril M. Worby, M.D., professor of clinical medicine and vice chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; Anne L. Diaz, R.N., M.S.N., M.F.T., marriage and family therapist; and Stephen B. Andracki, M.D., assistant clinical professor, Department of Internal Medicine.

The School of Medicine Cystic Fibrosis Center, the only such center in Nevada, currently serves some 50 families throughout the state who are affected by the disease. For additional information on this conference, contact Tara Brascia at 598-4411.

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