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Nov. 1-3, 2002, ASN Media Room, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Room 302,  
215-418-2366 (media room), 240-381-7513 (after hours)

## **HAHN ADDRESSES SCIENTIFIC AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF AIDS**

**Philadelphia, PA (Nov. 1, 2002)**— Dr. Beatrice Hahn, internationally renowned AIDS expert, presents the latest research about the origin and evolution of the viruses that cause acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in humans at the American Society of Nephrology's (ASN) 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Renal Week Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. Her lecture, "AIDS as a Zoonosis: Scientific and Public Health Implications" will be at 8:30 am on Saturday, November 2 in Hall C of the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome is believed to have originated from simian immunodeficiency viruses (SIVs), which has been identified in the common chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) and the sooty mangabey (*Cercocebus atys*). Dr. Hahn recently employed the knowledge and experience of distinguished primatologist, Jane Goodall, to identify SIV in wild chimpanzees living in East Africa. Dr. Hahn, her husband George M. Shaw, and Dr. Goodall analyzed urine and fecal samples, utilizing the latest method created to study SIV which does not produce a disease as in chimpanzees that is as serious as AIDS in man.

"Dr. Hahn's research holds significant public health implications. Understanding how HIV developed in man is extraordinarily important as we face such societal issues as Xenotransplantation," said Dr. Paul Klotman, program chair of the ASN's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Renal Week Meeting. "I am pleased she can be here to share her knowledge of the scientific and public health implications of this worldwide epidemic."

Dr. Hahn is currently a Professor of Medicine and Microbiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Associate Director for Program Development and Resources at the Center for AIDS Research. Her career at the university has spanned 17 years and a variety of specialties, including cancer and microbiology.

As the largest nephrology meeting of its kind, Renal Week 2002 is expected to draw more than 11,000 nephrologists to reveal the latest findings in renal research and in the care of patients with kidney and related disorders. The ASN is a not-for-profit organization of 8,700 physicians and scientists dedicated to the study and practice of nephrology and committed to providing a forum for the promulgation of information regarding the latest research and clinical findings on kidney diseases.

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