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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Kresge Foundation awards grant to the Institute for Alternative Futures to explore the future of primary care

Alexandria, VA – October 12, 2010

The Kresge Foundation has awarded the Institute for Alternative Futures (IAF) a grant to explore the likely and preferable futures of primary care.

Forecasts by numerous health care experts strongly suggest that primary care is likely to be very different from what we experience today. While the recent healthcare reform legislation is driving change from a policy level, developments in technology, disease knowledge, healthcare financing, care protocols and modalities, and other areas are transforming the field of primary care.

As these changes unfold, it will be essential for policy-makers, public health officials, health care providers, and others to understand the alternative paths that the evolution of 21st century primary care could take. This project will forecast a wide range of developments that could significantly change primary care and will develop a set of scenarios to describe primary care in the year 2025. These scenarios will support the Kresge Foundation's mission to increase both access and quality of health-care services by exploring key uncertainties and identifying opportunities to improve the delivery and financing of primary care in the U.S.

The Kresge Foundation will use the scenarios to explore the implications of changes in primary care for its own funding strategies. Policy-makers can use the scenarios to help them anticipate changes that affect policy and legislation. Healthcare providers can use the scenarios as a basis for strategic thinking to ensure that they are working toward a preferred future of primary care. A meeting of national leaders will use the scenarios to consider implications and develop recommendations. The scenarios, as well as insights and recommendations that emerge from the project, will be published in a final report in the fall of 2011.

About

The Kresge Foundation is a national, private foundation that seeks to influence the quality of life for future generations by creating access and opportunity in underserved communities, improving the health of low-income people, supporting artistic expression, assisting in the revitalization of Detroit, and advancing methods for dealing with global climate change. For more information on programs, their strategic objectives and focus areas, visit www.kresge.org.

IAF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit research and educational organization that helps communities and organizations more wisely understand the future and create the futures they prefer. IAF has been a pioneer in the use of futures methods, such as forecasts, scenarios, and vision, in health and health care, energy, transportation, education, and business. For more information, visit www.altfutures.org. Through its Disparity Reducing Advances (DRA) Project, IAF has worked to identify and accelerate social and technological advances with the greatest potential to reduce health disparities in the U.S. For more information on the DRA Project, see www.altfutures.org/draproject.

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