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**NORTH AMERICAN THROMBOSIS FORUM (NATF) JOINS FORCES IN A NEWLY FORMED
COALITION FOCUSED ON DVT AND PULMONARY EMBOLISM AWARENESS**

The North American Thrombosis Forum (NATF) believes in the “economies of scale” and
“strength in numbers” of the Venous Disease Coalition

Lakewood, CO, September 18, 2007 – The NATF announced today that it has joined the newly formed Venous Disease Coalition (VDC). The VDC is a collaborative network of professional and public nonprofit organizations sharing the mission and vision to increase public and health professional awareness of venous disease, including DVT, pulmonary embolism (known collectively as venous thromboembolism or “VTE”), chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension, and chronic venous insufficiency.

The VDC and its member organizations, including NATF, will conduct its inaugural media briefing to discuss the dangers, risk factors, warning signs, and treatment options for VTE at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. on September 18, 2007 at 12:00 p.m. Joining them and speaking at the event to help raise awareness about the need for more education and research to prevent and treat VTE will be, Susan Shurin, MD, Deputy Director, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Congressman, Ed Perlmutter (D), Colorado’s 7th Congressional District, Massachusetts State Representative, Michael F. Rush (D), and Michael J. Hefron, DVT/PE Survivor.

“The mission of the Venous Disease Coalition, to promote efforts to improve the survival rates and quality of life for individuals with, or at risk for, venous disease, is timely and essential in our efforts to promote public awareness of venous thrombosis,” remarked Samuel Z. Goldhaber, MD, NATF President and Founding Director, who Co-Chaired the event. “Having 19 nonprofit organizations like NATF join together in this mission will send a clear message that urgent action is needed. Under the umbrella of the VDC, groups such as ours will gain strength in numbers. We’ll be able to learn best strategies and practices from each other and our combined voice will resonate with government officials, health care professionals, and the lay public,” he added.

VTE is the 3rd most common vascular disease after heart disease and stroke. It is a potentially life-threatening, but treatable and largely preventable disorder that includes two related conditions:

1. Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) - Abnormal clotting of the blood in one or more veins, most commonly the veins of the leg; and
2. Pulmonary embolism (PE) - Occurs when a DVT breaks free from its original site in a vein and then travels through the heart and then into the lungs.

This important media event will unite vascular healthcare professionals from North America to launch the Coalition. The briefing will include some of the nation's top physicians and nonprofit organizations dedicated to increasing public and health professional awareness of VTE.

The Vascular Disease Foundation (VDF) has taken the lead in creating this unique coalition in partnership of 19 major national public health organizations and professional vascular societies. In addition to VDF, participating organizations include the American Academy of Physician Assistants, American College of Cardiology, American College of Chest Physicians, American College of Phlebology, American Society of Hematology, American Thrombosis Hemostasis Network, American Venous Forum, Anticoagulation Forum, Hemophilia & Thrombosis Research Society, National Alliance of Thrombosis and Thrombophilia , North American Thrombosis Forum, Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery, Society of Critical Care Medicine , Society of Interventional Radiology, Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology , Society for Vascular Nursing , Society for Vascular Surgery and the Society of Vascular Ultrasound.

About the North American Thrombosis Forum

The North American Thrombosis Forum (NATF) is a nonprofit organization that was conceptualized to complement existing thrombosis-related organizations. Our mission is to promote policy and programs that encourage translational research, clinical research, prevention and education, discussion of public policy, regulatory concerns, and advocacy on behalf of those who are affected by thrombotic conditions. To learn more about NATF, visit our Web site, <http://www.NATFonline.org>.

About the Venous Disease Coalition

The Venous Disease Coalition (VDC) is an alliance of leading health professional societies and patient advocacy groups that have united around a common goal: to improve the survival rates and quality of life for individuals with, or at risk for, venous disease. The VDC plans to develop a national campaign to educate the U.S. public and health care professionals about venous disease. For more information, call 888.VDF.4INFO (888.833.4463) or visit our Web site, <http://www.VenousDiseaseCoalition.org>.

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