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**MEDIA ADVISORY: IHI OPEN SCHOOL LAUNCHES NEW COURSE ON
ELIMINATING HEALTH DISPARITIES & IMPROVING HEALTH EQUITY**

- WHO:** The IHI Open School offers students, residents, and faculty free online courses on quality improvement, patient safety, leadership, health care operations, population health, and patient-centered care. The courses are available to health professionals for a low annual fee.
- WHAT:** The IHI Open School has just introduced a new course on health disparities – examining what they are, why they occur, and the role health care providers can play in improving health care and health outcomes for marginalized populations. [TA 102: Improving Health Equity](#) illustrates how social conditions can contribute to poor health and, when combined with disparities in health care quality, align to create the ever-widening gap in health and well-being between individuals of differing social status and race. Understanding that health disparities involve many factors that interact together – e.g. social conditions, environment, behavior, and health care – the course offers a number of examples of how quality improvement initiatives and methodologies can reduce disparities.
- WHY:** Economic opportunity, education, and medical care have created longer, healthier lives than were possible centuries ago. Yet here in the U.S., low income Americans are three times more likely to die before 65, and studies continue to illustrate gaps in quality of care based on race, geographic location, and socioeconomic status. This course aims to help students, residents, faculty, and professionals navigate the complexity and make systemic changes that will lead to real improvement and impact.
- “We, stewards of medicine, need also to be stewards of spirit and health and vitality – and equality,” said Don Berwick, President Emeritus and Senior Fellow, IHI. “Students in the health professions often pursue their training with just this ideal but then enter organizations that have not yet matched an understanding of contributors to health disparities with processes to reduce them. This new curriculum from the Open School is designed to help close this equity improvement gap in part by providing the next generation of health professionals as well as current providers with both the analysis and the tools they need to focus more effectively on delivering equity within health care today.”
- HOW:** Health students, residents, and faculty can access the courses for free on the IHI Open School [website](#) (registration is required). The course is also available to professionals with a [subscription](#) to the IHI Open School.

For press inquiries and access to course materials, please contact Joanna Clark at CXO Communication, joanna@cxocommunication.com

About the IHI Open School

Launched in 2008, the IHI Open School is transforming health care education around the world by offering students, residents and faculty free online courses on quality improvement, patient safety, leadership, health care operations, population health and patient-centered care. The courses are available to health professionals for a low annual fee. Developed along with many of the founders and current leaders of the health care quality improvement movement, the courses provide a critical foundation for quality and safety and offer a whole new environment for thinking and learning about improvement and safety. Intended for any health profession – including medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, and allied health – the IHI Open School also features myriad free resources and a growing community network that includes more than 700 Chapters in 70 countries worldwide. Learn more at www.ihl.org/openschool.

About the Institute for Healthcare Improvement

IHI is a leading innovator in health and health care improvement worldwide. For more than 25 years, we have partnered with visionaries, leaders, and front-line practitioners around the globe to spark bold, inventive ways to improve the health of individuals and populations. Recognized as an innovator, convener, trustworthy partner, and driver of results, we are the first place to turn for expertise, help, and encouragement for anyone, anywhere who wants to change health and health care profoundly for the better. To advance our mission, IHI's work is focused in five key areas: Improvement Capability; Person- and Family-Centered Care; Patient Safety; Quality, Cost, and Value; and Triple Aim for Populations. Learn more at ihl.org.

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