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IHI NAMES PIERRE BARKER SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT TO OVERSEE WORK IN AFRICA AND INDIA

Dr. Barker Is a Leader in Health Systems Improvement With Extensive Experience in Africa

Cambridge, MA – October 18, 2010 – The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) announced today that (effective immediately) Dr. Pierre Barker will become the Senior Vice President responsible for IHI’s programs and partnerships in Africa and India.

Dr. Barker is a leading expert in health systems improvement with extensive experience in Africa and a longstanding involvement in improving medical care. For the past two years, he has been the Senior Advisor to IHI’s initiatives in Africa and India. Prior to that, he was the Director of IHI’s South Africa Projects where he helped improve systems of care for HIV/AIDS patients within the South African state health system.

As Senior Vice President, Dr. Barker will be responsible for IHI’s expanding portfolio of large-scale health systems improvement initiatives, including current work in South Africa, Ghana, Malawi and India. In South Africa, IHI’s partnerships with local and regional health care providers, has helped to put Quality Improvement on the map as the primary method for improving access to HIV/AIDS treatment and support. IHI’s engagement also includes a national program to reduce “under five” mortality and improve child health in Ghana by working with faith-based and public health systems; a program to decrease maternal mortality across three districts in Malawi; and a maternal care program in low-cost private hospitals in India.

A South African by birth and a graduate of the University of Cape Town Medical School, Dr. Barker trained in pediatrics and neonatology in London, UK, before moving to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1990 as a pediatric pulmonologist and lung physiologist. He was appointed Medical Director of UNC Children’s Hospital clinics in 2003 and began focusing on improving health systems. In 2005 he took a sabbatical year in South Africa to test whether IHI’s improvement methods could help the HIV epidemic there by improving access to treatment.

“We are delighted that Pierre will be leading IHI’s important work in Africa and India,” said Maureen Bisognano, IHI’s President and Chief Executive Officer. “His extensive experience with international health projects and his commitment to improving health systems will provide invaluable leadership to further IHI’s current efforts, with our partners, in these countries.”

“I’m excited to be taking on this new challenge,” said Dr. Barker. “IHI is in an extraordinary position to demonstrate improvement techniques that can have profound effects on health care delivery in Africa and throughout the world. I look forward to leading and expanding IHI’s technical support and its partnerships to increase and improve the delivery of care in countries eager to embrace innovations that are culturally and resource sensitive and that can be successfully implemented and sustained.”

Dr. Barker will continue to advise the World Health Organization on health systems strengthening and redesign of HIV care and infant feeding guidelines. He will also continue with his links to University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he is Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and advises on global health programs.

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) is an independent not-for-profit organization helping to lead the improvement of health care throughout the world. Founded in 1991 and based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, IHI (www.ihl.org) works to accelerate improvement by building the will for change, cultivating promising concepts for improving patient care, and helping health care systems put those ideas into action.

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