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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Donald J. Lefeber Appointed Director of the Center for Integrative Health Care and Wellness**

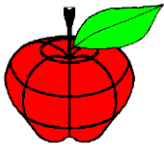
(BELLAIRE, TEXAS – January 27, 2012) Community Medical Foundation for Patient Safety (CMFPS), a nonprofit research organization specialized in patient safety research and based in the Houston area, appointed Donald J. Lefeber as Director of its new Center for Integrative Health Care and Wellness. There is a growing trend with the interest and use of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) in the U.S. where more patients and consumers are considering or already using CAM as primary treatment or adjuvant therapy to convention treatment.

The Center for Integrative Health Care and Wellness under Lefeber's direction and development will provide current evidence-based information about CAM, educate and guide patients and healthcare practitioners to improve and optimize patient care and safety with CAM and conventional medicine, promote effective communication and relationship between patients and their healthcare providers, introduce key concepts of the *Community of Competence™* and implement a model of *Integrative Medicine*.

Elizabeth A. Smith, Ph.D., founder of CMFPS, states, "the patient is the only true customer of our healthcare system, and we need to assist patients and their families with current and accurate information so they can make informed decisions about their health concerns and options, including the proper and appropriate use of CAM."

The Center based in the Bellaire area at CMFPS's main office will become a gathering place and a forum for information about CAM where patients and families can meet to discuss the latest trends in CAM, ranging from acupuncture, herbal medicine and other orientation medical practices.

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A double-major graduate in international studies and Spanish at the University of St. Thomas, Lefebber completed his public health certificate program in San Antonio, Texas, 2010. He is currently enrolled at the American College of Acupuncture and Orientation Medicine in Houston. His research aim at the Center is based on building a conceptual model of comprehensive, integrative health care that incorporates eastern and western medical practices to achieve optimal outcomes for patients. His current interest and academic pursuit are to introduce CAM to students of health sciences at the Texas Medical Center and to strengthen collaboration and understanding between disciplines through teamwork, education, and training.

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**About Community Medical Foundation for Patient Safety**

Community Medical Foundation for Patient Safety, established in December 2003 as a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt, active learning organization based in the Houston area, is a leader in patient safety research and education. Our mission is to *promote and support patient safety through research, education, and the demonstrated practice of patient-centered health care*. On behalf of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has recognized and listed Community Medical Foundation for Patient Safety as Patient Safety Organization #29.

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