

For Immediate Release

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Illinois Poison Center's Medical Director Re-Elected to National Board
Dr. Michael Wahl joins AAPCC's Board of Directors

Chicago, IL (August 29, 2011) – Illinois Poison Center's (IPC) Medical Director, Dr. Michael Wahl was recently elected as a member at-large on the American Association of Poison Control Centers' (AAPCC) Board of Directors. Dr. Wahl will serve 3 years in this position.

The AAPCC works to support the nation's 60 poison centers in the valuable work they do. America's poison centers are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Poison centers' toll-free hotline at **1-800-222-1222** serves as a key medical information resource and helps reduce costly emergency room visits.

Michael Wahl, MD, FACEP, FACMT is board certified in emergency medicine and medical toxicology and has been practicing for the past 17 years. In addition to serving as the Medical Director for the IPC, Dr. Wahl is also an emergency room physician at Northshore University Medical Systems. Dr. Wahl has authored and co-authored nearly two dozen medical book chapters and countless publications.

In addition to serving as a member of AAPCC's Board of Directors, Dr. Wahl also currently serves as President of the Illinois College of Emergency Physicians' Board of Directors.

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The Illinois Poison Center is a non-profit health service that provides the people of Illinois with comprehensive and trusted information and treatment advice on potentially harmful substances via a free, confidential 24-hour hotline staffed by specially trained doctors, nurses and pharmacists.

The nation's oldest and largest poison center, the IPC is the state's leading source of advanced toxicology training and consultation to healthcare professionals. The IPC also educates the general public on poison prevention and potentially harmful substances via community outreach and online training programs.

Through its services, the IPC saves lives, improves patient care and saves the people of Illinois an estimated \$50 million annually in unnecessary healthcare costs by reducing 911 calls, doctor and ER visits, and time spent in hospitals.

The IPC is a program of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council.