

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Renowned Author Maggie Mahar to Speak at Abramson Center's "Evidence & Clinical Medicine" Symposium

Houston - The Abramson Center for the Future of Health will welcome author Maggie Mahar, PhD, as the guest speaker on February 21, 2008. The free event will be hosted at The Methodist Hospital in the Fondren 100 Room from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Dr. Mahar's talk, *Patient-Centered Medicine: Shared Decision-Making*, discusses the financial and medical benefits of patient and physician working together to make decisions for the patient's treatment. Mahar states, "In the past, we talked about patients giving "informed consent" before any elective procedure. Are patients who sign informed-consent paperwork really informed about the treatment they're about to undergo? Of course not. The fine print on such forms is for lawyers, not sick people." Join Dr. Mahar to discuss how working together can create the best patient outcomes.

"Maggie Mahar is one of this generation's most original thinkers on health care," said Dr. Cliff Dacso, director of the Abramson Center for the Future of Health. "If we are to improve the state of our country's health care and address its stunning disparities, we need to consider new ideas. Dr. Mahar challenges us to do just this."

Dr. Mahar is the author of *Money-Driven Medicine: The Real Reason Health Care Costs So Much and Bull! A History of the Boom, 1982-1999*, a book recommended by Warren Buffett in his company's annual report. She has also written for *The New York Times*, *Institutional Investor* and *Barron's*. She currently serves as a Health Policy Fellow for The Century Foundation, and authors *Health Beat* (www.healthbeatblog.org).

About the Symposium: The Evidence Symposium is an ongoing series sponsored by The Abramson Center for the Future of Health and made possible by the collaboration of The Methodist Hospital, the University of Houston, and the Technion-Israel Institute of

Technology. Speakers present new and ongoing research projects, which develop innovative ways of conceptualizing, measuring and analyzing evidence and decision making in health care.

About the Center: The Abramson Center for the Future of Health is leading the creation of sustainable health for the people of Houston and the world through the development of programs supporting individuals as the primary managers of their own health, particularly in the area of chronic disease. Our programs in medical science, the social sciences and education increase our understanding of how people make decisions; provide health information that is easy for patients to understand and use; and educate and support patients, communities and health care providers. To find out more information, visit www.theabramsoncenter.org or visit www.methodisthealth.com.

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Photos available upon request

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