



HEALTHWELL
FOUNDATION®

Media Contact: Angelene Taccini
Avalanche Strategic Communications
One University Plaza, Suite 407
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601
angelene@avalanchepr.com
tel: 201.488.0049
fax: 201.488.1550

News Release

February 18-24 is National Porphyrria Week

HealthWell Foundation assists patients living with acute porphyrias

Gaithersburg, MD (February 8, 2007) – February 18-24, 2007 is National Porphyrria Awareness Week, sponsored by the American Porphyrria Foundation. The HealthWell Foundation, a non-profit, national charitable organization dedicated to providing financial assistance to patients with serious illnesses, has been helping patients with acute porphyrias receive treatment for this relatively little-known condition.

"Since our founding, the HealthWell Foundation has provided financial assistance to more than 20,000 patients with various diseases," says Stephen M. Weiner, President of the HealthWell Foundation. "Under today's health care system, many patients living with porphyria and other chronic conditions cannot afford their out-of-pocket health care costs. The HealthWell Foundation helps patients like these start and continue critical medical treatment."

Porphyrias represent a category of metabolic disorders, one of which is acute porphyria. Difficult to diagnose because of its nonspecific symptoms, acute porphyria affects the nervous system and can include symptoms ranging from chest and back pain to muscle numbness and even paralysis. Acute porphyria may be inherited or it may develop during one's life. There is currently no cure.

The HealthWell Foundation was established to assist patients with conditions such as acute porphyria to cover the out-of-pocket costs associated with treatment. The Foundation also currently offers assistance for the treatment of many other life-threatening or chronic diseases, including breast and colorectal cancers, asthma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and rheumatoid arthritis, among others.

###

Established in 2003 to help patients with serious conditions meet their cost-sharing obligations for treatment, the HealthWell Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit association that provides financial assistance to cover the cost of prescription drug coinsurance, copayments and deductibles, health insurance premiums, and other selected out-of-pocket healthcare costs. The Foundation considers individual financial, medical and insurance situations when determining assistance eligibility. For more information, please visit www.healthwellfoundation.org.