INTERNATIONAL PLASMA AWARENESS WEEK TO CELEBRATE DONORS AND SPOTLIGHT RARE DISEASES

Annapolis, MD, September 10, 2014--The second annual International Plasma Awareness Week (IPAW) will be celebrated October 12-18. A joint initiative of the Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association (PPTA) and its member companies, IPAW is designed to:

- Raise global awareness about source plasma collection
- Recognize the contributions of plasma donors in saving and improving lives
- Increase understanding about lifesaving plasma protein therapies and rare diseases

Member companies are planning a variety of activities including: donor appreciation events, as well as, open houses for patients, government officials and the media at over 450 plasma collection facilities in Europe and the U.S. In addition, patient organizations representing individuals with rare diseases have pledged support for the event. A multi-language media kit containing infographics about plasma and plasma donation is available.

“People throughout the world rely on plasma protein therapies which are developed through the generosity and commitment of plasma donors. PPTA is proud of the contributions we and our member companies make to saving and improving lives...” said Joshua Penrod, PPTA, Vice President, Source.

Plasma, a biological material that cannot be manufactured, is used to create lifesaving therapies that come solely from committed plasma donors in the U.S., Canada, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and Hungary. In addition to meeting regulatory requirements, the majority of these centers have achieved International Quality Plasma Program (IQPP) certification. PPTA’s voluntary standards program provides global leadership for the industry's goal of continuous improvement with a focus on safety and quality from the donor to the patient.
Plasma protein therapies, which include plasma-derived therapies and recombinant analogs, are used to treat chronic, life-threatening diseases including bleeding disorders, primary immune deficiencies, alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency and certain rare neurological disorders. In addition, these therapies are used in emergency and surgical medicine.

As PPTA celebrates the generosity of plasma donors and works to raise awareness for the rare diseases during IPAW, we encourage everyone to thank donors who help to ensure a higher quality of life for patients around the world.

About PPTA

The Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association (PPTA), a global industry trade association, represents the private sector manufacturers of plasma-derived and recombinant analog therapies, collectively known as plasma protein therapies and the collectors of source plasma used for fractionation. These therapies are used by millions of people worldwide to treat a variety of diseases and serious medical conditions. PPTA also administers standards and programs that help ensure the quality and safety of plasma protein therapies, donors, and patients.

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