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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AHNA to participate in inaugural Integrative Pain Care Policy Congress in San Diego

Topeka, Kansas — Terri Roberts J.D., R.N. executive director of the American Holistic Nurses Association will join 75 leaders representing the full scope of licensed and certified health care professionals involved in pain care, along with insurers, government officials, regulators, researchers, and policy experts in San Diego October 21-22 at the first ever Integrative Pain Care Policy Congress. The Congress will provide an opportunity for experts to come together and discuss ways to improve pain care policy in the U.S. Just a few R.N.’s will be in attendance, Tay Kopanos R.N., Vice President State Government Affairs, American Association of Nurse Practitioners and Melanie H. Simpson R.N., Pain Team Coordinator, The University of Kansas Health System, and Immediate Past-President American Society for Pain Management Nursing will be in attendance. Others attending include Mary G. Greene M.D., Director, Governance Management Group, and Center for Program Integrity, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Ralph Kohl, Senior Director of Federal Government Affairs, American Association of Nurse Anesthetist and Friedhelm Sandbrink, M.D., Acting National Program Director for Pain Management, Specialty Care Services, Veterans Health Administration, and Veterans Health Administration.

The expertise, effort, and resources required developing effective plans and interventions that address the public health crises of inadequate pain treatment, opioid-related harms are far beyond the capacities of any one organization, and this Congress will provide the opportunity for collaboration. The conversations will give leaders a chance to discuss everything from integrative/comprehensive pain care, past and current efforts for better reimbursement for
therapies, and long-term solutions for the opioid crisis. Lastly, the Congress will begin working towards consensus pain policy and advocacy goals for 2018. The growing number of well-intentioned pain management guidelines and policies—both state and federal—will affect the health care that is available to those in need of acute and chronic pain management. This inaugural Integrative Pain Care Policy Congress will give all leaders an opportunity to voice ideas on pain policy reform.

About Terri Roberts

Terri served as the Interim Executive Director of AHNA from February 2012 until December 1, 2012 when she was hired as the permanent Executive Director. For 23 years, Terri served as the Executive Director of the Kansas State Nurses Association (KSNA), representing KSNA and professional nurses before the Kansas Legislature, state agencies and in interactions with other healthcare organizations. She was the Editor In-Chief of The Kansas Nurse, a refereed journal, and the Editor of a Legislative Newsletter that was published weekly during the Kansas legislative session each year.

Terri is a 1978 graduate of Washburn University School of Nursing and is licensed as an RN in Kansas, and she is a 1982 graduate of Washburn University School of Law. She has served on numerous committees and task forces in Kansas and for the American Nurses Association and she is a past president of the Kansas Society of Association Executives (KSAE), serving in a several elected leadership positions for KSAE from 2002 until 2006. Her clinical experience is in medical surgical, cardiac and GI nursing and she has a passion for reducing tobacco consumption and promoting healthier lifestyles.
About AHNA

At its founding in 1981, the American Holistic Nurses Association (AHNA) adopted as its primary mission, the advancement of holistic healthcare by increasing awareness and promoting education, as well as personal community-building among nurses, other healthcare professionals and the public. This non-profit professional membership organization is the definitive voice for holistic nursing for registered nurses and other holistic healthcare professionals around the world. Holistic nursing focuses on integrating traditional, complementary and alternative treatment opportunities to improve the mind body and spiritual health of the whole person.

AHNA delivers valuable resources, improves educational tools, and offers superior networking opportunities to a vibrant and expanding universe of holistic healthcare professionals. AHNA currently services more than 4,500 members through 130 local chapters/networks in the U.S. and abroad. Holistic nursing is recognized by the American Nurses Association as an official nursing specialty with both a defined scope and standards of practice.

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