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APA Supports Second Annual Washington, D.C. NAMIWalks

Arlington, Va. - On Saturday, October 29, 2005, members, staff, family and friends of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), American Psychiatric Foundation (APF), American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc. (APPI), and American Psychiatric Institute for Research and Education (APIRE) will participate in the second annual National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Walk in Washington, D.C.

Each year, NAMI hosts a series of NAMIWalks throughout the country. Each walk is designed to raise funds for programs which support, educate, advocate and encourage research on mental illness. In 2005, more than 50 NAMIWalks have been planned for sites across the country.

“We are proud to participate in NAMIWalks and to support our colleagues in the mental health community and their patients,” said Steven S. Sharfstein, M.D., APA president. “This walk helps to bring attention to the need to provide better programs, services and health care coverage, which all adds up to improvements in treatment for those suffering from mental disorders.”

As sponsors, APA, APF and APPI, along with APIRE, have assembled a team of more than 60 individuals to walk on Saturday as “Team APA.”

“NAMIWalks are about hope and recovery,” said Michael Fitzpatrick, NAMI executive director. “They have grown from 12 events in 2003 to more than 50 in 2005. We are excited to have the APA participate for the second year in our nation’s capital.”

NAMI has a full morning of activities planned for the walk, featuring several speakers who will kick-off a rally, including Dr. Sharfstein.

The 5K walk will start at 9:00 a.m. on the National Mall in front of the Smithsonian Castle.

For more information or to participate in the NAMIWalks Washington, D.C. event and fundraiser, visit www.nami.org/namiwalks.

About the American Psychiatric Association:

The American Psychiatric Association is a national medical specialty society whose more than 36,000 physician members specialize in diagnosis, treatment, prevention and research of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. Visit the APA at www.psych.org and www.healthyminds.org.