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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CALOPTIMA HONORS HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS
WITH CIRCLE OF CARE AWARDS**

Award Recognizes Those Providing High-Quality Care for Populations in Need

ORANGE, Calif. (August 15, 2011) — For their above-and-beyond service to vulnerable Orange County residents, a select group of dedicated health care professionals will share the spotlight at the CalOptima Circle of Care Awards event August 31.

The 2011 Circle of Care Award recipients are:

PHYSICIANS:

Shahla Abedi, M.D.	Ashraf Fahim, M.D.	Paul Y. Qaundah, M.D.
G. Lara Bhatnagar, M.D.	Eric Handler, M.D., M.P.H., FAAP	Mark Rettenmaier, M.D.
Felizardo S. Camilon, M.D.	Alan G. Israel, M.D.	Hieu Tram, M.D.
Ronald Cornelsen, M.D.	Diana J. Nugent, M.D.	Thua Vinh, M.D.
Michael M. Dao, M.D.	Thomas Oliveira, D.O.	
Asha Dutt, M.D.	Michael F. Ozaki, M.D.	

MEDICAL GROUPS AND CLINICS:

Camino Health Center	CHOC Children's Breathmobile Program	Southern Orange County Pediatric Associates
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OPTOMETRIST:

Robert Gonzales, O.D.

PHARMACIST:

Curtis Siu, Pharm.D.

OTHER PROVIDER:

Donna Hurt, C.O.T.

NURSES and NURSE PRACTITIONERS:

Health Care Agency/ Comprehensive Health Assessment Team—Homeless (CHAT—H)	Karen M. Deck, M.S.N., N.P. <i>Assistant Clinical Professor, Nursing Science, UC Irvine</i>	Camille Fitzpatrick, M.S.N., N.P. <i>Clinical Professor, Nursing Science; Director, Adult/Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Program, UC Irvine</i>
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LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

(Presented posthumously)

Stephen E. Osburn, M.D.

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“Recognizing these providers with Circle of Care Awards only begins to thank them for their sincere commitment and hard work,” says Richard Chambers, CalOptima Chief Executive Officer. “Without this group of dedicated advocates, CalOptima’s mission to provide access to high-quality and compassionate health care could not be fulfilled. They represent the foundation that supports Orange County communities in need.”

Established in 2000, the Circle of Care Award has been given to more than 170 distinguished health care professionals, medical groups and allied providers whose dedication has made a lasting impact on Orange County’s vulnerable populations. In particular, CalOptima recognizes those who reach out to the underserved to improve access to care with culturally appropriate services and a focus on quality improvement.

In a special moment during this year’s ceremony, Stephen Osburn, M.D., will be honored posthumously with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Osburn will be remembered for 40 years in the medical profession, during which he demonstrated compassion and commitment to his pediatric patients and the medical students he trained.

The 2011 Circle of Care Awards and Luncheon will take place at The Doubletree Hotel in Orange, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, August 31. Registration is required.

About CalOptima

CalOptima is a county organized health system providing publicly funded health coverage programs for low-income families, seniors and people with disabilities in Orange County, Calif. CalOptima serves its 421,000 members with a network of more than 6,700 primary care doctors and specialists, as well as 28 hospitals. CalOptima provides access to quality health care through three programs, including Medi-Cal, Healthy Families Program and OneCare (HMO SNP).

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