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ASTMH Names Peter Hotez as New President

Atlanta, GA (November 7, 2010) – The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) announced today that Dr. Peter Hotez, President of the Sabin Vaccine Institute, assumed his role as Society President. Peter J. Hotez, MD, PhD, serves as Distinguished Research Professor and the Walter G. Ross Professor and Chair of the Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

“It is a true honor and my privilege to serve as president of ASTMH for the coming year,” said Dr. Hotez. “I look forward to representing this prestigious and vital Society and working toward expanding its reach and tackling some of the most pressing global health challenges.”

Dr. Hotez helped to establish the Human Hookworm Vaccine Initiative at Sabin, a unique product development partnership with The George Washington University, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop a vaccine to prevent the spread of human hookworm disease. He was also instrumental in the creation of the Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases, an advocacy and resource mobilization initiative of Sabin, dedicated to raising the awareness and political will to control and eliminate neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). In 2008, Dr. Hotez was elected into the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies.

“I look forward to working with Dr. Hotez to build on the momentum and energy of our annual meeting, which draws more than 3,200 people – half of whom travel from outside the United States,” said Karen Goraleski, executive director of ASTMH. “And with so many young attendees committed to tropical medicine and global health, ASTMH, as their professional society, can help them in every step of their career development.”

About the ASTMH

The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, founded in 1903, is a worldwide organization of scientists, clinicians and program professionals whose mission is to promote global health through the prevention and control of infectious and other diseases that disproportionately afflict the global poor.

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