



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Conference propels collaboration among health care, law enforcement

Partnership is key to successful prosecution, healing in cases of violence

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – From sexual assault and domestic violence to child abuse and murder, the role of the health care provider in cases of violence is increasingly complex. It requires collaboration with law enforcement and community advocates for successful prosecution and for the healing process for victims to begin.

“Forensic Investigations: From Scene to Courtroom” is an educational conference targeted to physicians, nurses, public health officials, law enforcement representatives, emergency medicine providers and first responders, prosecutors, and community advocates. The conference, sponsored by Saint Luke’s Hospital’s Forensic Care Program, is May 6-8, 2009, at the Kansas City Marriott–Downtown.

Topics will cover emerging issues in forensic medicine including evidence collection, identifying corroborating evidence, child enticement and internet safety, drug facilitated assault, preparing expert witness testimony, investigating false or unfounded reports, and the prevalence of human trafficking.

Greg Smith, father of teenager Kelsey Smith, who was abducted and murdered in 2007, will provide opening remarks at the conference.

Saint Luke’s Hospital established the first private rape treatment center in the nation in 1974. The hospital is one of the few in the area with emergency room nurses who are all credentialed as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE). SANE nurses have advanced education and clinical training in forensic examination of sexual assault victims. The program’s enhanced evidence collection process leads to more effective investigations and more successful prosecutions.

“This conference has been specifically designed to expand the successful principles of teamwork and collaboration - initially developed between health care and the criminal justice system for victims of sexual assault - to other broader aspects of medical/forensic investigation,” said Michael L. Weaver, M.D., FACEP, medical director, Forensic Care Program at Saint Luke's Health System.

Conference fees vary. Continuing education credits are available. For more information or to register, call (816) 932-3737 weekdays.

Saint Luke's Health System consists of 11 area hospitals and many primary care practices, and provides a range of inpatient, outpatient, and home care services. Founded as a faith-based, not-for-profit organization, our mission includes a commitment to the highest levels of excellence in health care and the advancement of medical research and education. The health system is an aligned organization in which the physicians and hospitals assume responsibility for enhancing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of people in the metropolitan Kansas City area and the surrounding region.

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