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## **ASP Association Names Joseph Vibert as New Executive Director**

**Chicago, IL** – The Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA) has announced the appointment of Joseph Vibert as its new Executive Director. ASPA is the only national voice representing specialized and professional accrediting organizations. Mr. Vibert brings over two decades of experience in accreditation, credentialing, education and administration to ASPA. He will succeed previous Executive Director Cynthia Davenport beginning January 1, 2011. Ms. Davenport is retiring after 16 years of valued service as ASPA's first Executive Director. Ms. Davenport and Mr. Vibert will work closely during the transition to ensure that ASPA continues to build on the strong foundations that have been developed for the organization.

"We are excited to have such an experienced professional whose vision for the future of accreditation, combined with strong advocacy and leadership skills, will continue to advance ASPA's mission," said Peter H. Vlasses, PharmD, DSc (Hon), Chairman of the Board for ASPA. "Joseph Vibert has a unique blend of communication and consensus-building skills with a proven history of collaborative management that will allow ASPA to continue to grow and enhance the services that we offer our members. The ASPA Board is fully committed to supporting him in this important transition of leadership."

Prior to this appointment, Mr. Vibert served as Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (The Alliance) in Toronto, Canada, a position he held since 2006. In this capacity he led the organization responsible for testing competency for entry to practice through the administration of a licensing examination and assessment of credentials of foreign-trained professionals. In addition, he helped in the development and review of accreditation standards for physical therapy educational programs. He has served as the Director of the Physical Therapy Assistant Program at Keiser University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he directed a training program for physical therapist assistants. These efforts led to a 10-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

Mr. Vibert worked for 12 years at Lincoln Park Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, holding positions including Director of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Special Assistant to the President. Here, he directed operations in a hospital setting. He was responsible for achieving successful accreditation outcomes from state and national organizations. He currently chairs the Canadian Network of National Associations of Regulators (CNNAR) and is a Board Member of the Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy.

According to Joseph Vibert, “I feel that it is critically important for accreditors to have the ability to self-govern in their efforts to ensure quality among accredited programs and schools. Having worked on both sides of the accreditation table, I am excited to begin my work with ASPA as their new Executive Director. I look forward to engaging our members, regulators and other key stakeholders to advance the quality of professional education and training in the United States.”

### **About The Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA)**

ASPA, a 501(c)(3) association, represents U.S. agencies that assess the quality of specialized and professional higher education programs and schools. ASPA focuses on issues of educational quality facing institutions of higher education, governments, students, and the public. ASPA-member accreditors set national educational standards for entry into 61 specialized disciplines or defined professions to ensure that students in educational programs receive an education consistent with standards for entry into practice or advanced practice in each of their respective fields or disciplines.

***Enhancing quality in higher education through  
specialized and professional accreditation***

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