



Keeping Diabetes Management Affordable

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**AMERICAN DIABETES WHOLESAL ANNOUNCES BARBARA ODOM AS THE FIRST-EVER
DIABETES EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

Pompano Beach, FL – March 3, 2008 – American Diabetes Wholesale, a discount provider of diabetic supplies to individuals without insurance, is honored to announce Barbara J. Odom, RN, PHN, M.ED as the first-ever recipient of their *Diabetes Educator of the Year Award*. An expert panel of judges including Dr. Kimberly Mistiszyn of Rand Eye Institute, Chris Maguire from American Diabetes Wholesale and a representative of the South Florida division of the American Diabetes Association, sorted through hundreds of qualified nominations that included Certified Diabetes Educators, nurses, physicians, and other healthcare professionals from around the country.

“We are overwhelmed by the number of nominations and the community support we’ve received for our Diabetes Educator of the Year Contest,” says Chris Maguire, Vice President and Co-Founder of American Diabetes Wholesale. “We’re excited about making this contest an annual event and continuing our work in servicing the diabetic community.”

Barbara J. Odom RN, PHN, M.ED is a U.S. Navy Veteran, a Registered Nurse of 36 years and became a Certified Diabetes Educator in 1985. Since retiring from the Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare System in June 2001, she has worked independently and volunteered her time in the San Diego Community and throughout the country motivated by her love of nursing, teaching and helping others. She facilitates a monthly support group in Southeast San Diego, does workshop presentations on diabetes and other health concerns at churches, community groups and health fairs.

The panel of judge chose five highly qualified finalists and then opened voting to the public via the American Diabetes Wholesale website. The four other esteemed finalists included:

- **Dr. Richard K. Bernstein** – A diabetic since 1946, who has educated people with diabetes since the mid 1970’s. He invented blood sugar self-monitoring and basal/bolus insulin dosing. He has helped thousands of patients over the years, and continues to reach even more through the six books he has authored, and via his monthly teleconference at www.diabetesincontrol.com.

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- **Marcia D. Draheim, RN, CDE** – Involved with diabetes education for 36 and a Certified Diabetes Educator for the past 20 years, Marcia became certified to gain a broader base of understanding of diabetes and its management and to also establish networking opportunities with other educators as resources so that she can more effectively help her patients.
- **Fran Kiger, RN, CDE** – Currently working with the Diabetes Care Center of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, NC, Fran was one of the original co-founders of the diabetes center in 1988. Her decision to specialize in diabetes sprang from her eight family members who have diabetes, five of whom have Type 1. According to Ms. Kiger, “Empowering people with diabetes to be all that they can possibly be makes me feel rewarded. I am blessed to be able to work with people with diabetes.”
- **Dr. Mary C. Vernon** – With over 30 years of experience of caring for diabetics as a family physician and helping patients find a way to effectively fight the disease, Mary became Board Certified in Bariatric Medicine (www.asbp.org), and started using carbohydrate restricted diets to help patients with diabetes and the metabolic changes that precede Type 2 Diabetes-like metabolic syndrome, impaired fasting glucose and impaired glucose tolerance. She is also the co-author of the book "Atkins Diabetes Revolution"

American Diabetes Wholesale has devoted itself to helping uninsured, underinsured and diabetics who pay out of pocket effectively manage their disease. American Diabetes Wholesale provides top-quality, brand name diabetic supplies and over-the-counter pharmacy items at a significantly discounted price in comparison to other retail outlets. American Diabetes Wholesale is heavily involved in the community and proudly supports the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the American Diabetes Association, the American Association of Diabetes Educators and Eye Care for Kids.

The Diabetes Educator of the Year Contest was the result of American Diabetes Wholesale’s desire to recognize the dedication of healthcare professionals committed to battling the diabetes epidemic facing this country. For more information on American Diabetes Wholesale and the Diabetes Educator of the Year Contest, please visit www.AmericanDiabetesWholesale.com/Contest.