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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **IPWR STRENGTHENS BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITH THREE NEW MEMBERS**

**Dr. A. David Brandling-Bennett, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Patricia Hassett, Aetna, Inc.; and corporate responsibility consultant, Andrea Spudich join the IPWR Executive Board.**

CHICAGO, IL, Aug. 10, 2007 - - The Institute for Public Health and Water Research (IPWR) proudly announces the recent election of Dr. Anthony David Brandling-Bennett, Ms. Patricia Hassett and Ms. Andrea Spudich to its Executive Board of Directors.

**Anthony David Brandling-Bennett, M.D., D.T.P.H., F.A.C.E.**, is the Senior Program Officer in Infectious Diseases at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. His role with the Foundation includes managing the portfolio of grants on helminthic infections, the Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership for Africa (MACEPA), and several projects involving vaccine-preventable diseases. Dr. Brandling-Bennett began his public health career in the Epidemic Intelligence Service at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) working in vaccine preventable diseases. He subsequently lived and worked in Central America, Thailand and Kenya. In Central America, he studied the health and economic impacts of Malaria, including preventive treatment in infants and children and reducing the burden of the disease in pregnancy globally. In Thailand, he helped create the first international Field Epidemiology Training Program, which celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005, and in Kenya, he established the initial cohorts that have led to CDC's long-term malaria and bed net studies.

In 1989, Brandling-Bennett joined the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization Regional Office for the Americas, where he served as head of epidemiology and director of communicable diseases until 1995, and then became the organization's deputy director.

Brandling-Bennett received his undergraduate and medical education at Harvard University and postgraduate training at Stanford University (internal medicine), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (preventive medicine), and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

**Patricia Hassett** is currently Vice President for Public Policy and Government Affairs at Aetna, Inc. She is one of the principal authors of Aetna's emerging holistic plan for health care access reform. Hassett is also Aetna's liaison to national industry health care organizations including AHIP (America's Health Insurance Plans) and CAQH (Coalition for Affordable Quality Healthcare). In addition to her duties as Aetna's Vice President for Public Policy, Hassett is a

government affairs representative for Aetna in the States of New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania. Prior to this position, she was Vice President for Enterprise Initiatives and Chief of Staff at Aetna, where she played a key role in successfully implementing the Chairman's Enterprise Initiatives, positioning Aetna as the national health insurance leader in combating disparities.

Throughout her career, Hassett has held several positions at colleges and universities in New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts. As Interim Deputy Chancellor for the City University of New York, she crafted and successfully steered a proposal through the New York State legislature for a revenue neutral, part-time financial aid program which was later adapted for expansion to all private and public colleges statewide.

Hassett is the author of "Taking on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care: The Experience at Aetna," published by Health Affairs, March/April 2005. She holds a Master of Arts from Teachers College, Columbia University.

**Andrea Spudich**, C.C.E.P., works as a Corporate Responsibility Consultant in Seattle, Washington, helping organizations effectively address stakeholder demands for greater transparency, accountability and corporate citizenship. Spudich's career has involved helping Global Fortune 500 and mid-market companies manage their reputations – from marketing corporate and product brands to building stakeholder trust and confidence through corporate governance, ethics and compliance programs.

Most recently, Spudich served as a management consultant with Deloitte Consulting, LLP in Chicago, leading project teams in the area of corporate governance, ethics and compliance. Prior to Deloitte, she spent a majority of her career in the San Francisco Bay area working for global corporations such as Hitachi, Emery Worldwide, CNF and Fair Isaac, and business partners like Visa International, Compaq and HP. Spudich holds a Masters in Learning and Organizational Change from Northwestern University.

Brandling-Bennett, Hassett and Spudich were elected at the July 18, 2007, IPWR Board Meeting held in Chicago. They join the IPWR Board Chair Prof. Paul Hunter, M.D., and eight distinguished Board members in the pursuit of the Institute's mission to improve public health through the consumption of quality drinking water.

"We are delighted to welcome the newest members to our Board," said IPWR Executive Director Jennie Ward-Robinson, Ph.D. "These three accomplished individuals will bring their diverse experiences and extensive knowledge to the esteemed group of scientists and corporate leaders who provide strategic leadership and direction to the IPWR as the Executive Board of Directors."

For more information, please go to [www.ipwr.org](http://www.ipwr.org).

*The Institute for Public Health and Water Research (IPWR) was incorporated in 2005 as a not-for-profit, independent science and education organization. The mission of IPWR is to improve public health through the consumption of quality drinking water. The IPWR provides scientific direction, funds and other support to investigators to encourage research, publications and meetings on water consumption and health.*

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