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## **Media Advisory -- August 4, 2008**

### **Economic and Financial Lessons from HIV/AIDS are Focus of JSM Economic Outlook Luncheon Tuesday**

***Sunday's New York Times reports that a new HIV study by the CDC  
found rate of HIV infection 40% higher than previously estimated***

**DENVER, CO** – The economic and financial lessons from HIV/AIDS will be the focus of the annual Economic Outlook Luncheon at the 2008 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) Tuesday, August 5, at the Colorado Convention Center.

#### **\*\*\*Presenter**

Tuesday's lunch roundtable presentation, titled "Epidemics in a Globalized World: Economic and Financial Lessons from HIV/AIDS," will be given by Tapen Sinha, Ph.D., ING Chair Professor of Risk Management and Insurance, at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México. The session runs from 12:30 to 1:50 pm.

#### **\*\*\* Session Description**

HIV/AIDS has gone from being the hottest topic in public policy circles to an almost completely forgotten disease. Yet, every year in the United States, 40,000 new cases are reported. **(See NOTE below.)** The racial composition of the disease has changed radically in the United States, from being a prominent disease among whites to becoming a predominant disease among African Americans. Drugs to treat HIV/AIDS patients are available, but they are not reaching the patients due to their high cost. We will discuss the why and how of the economics and finance of HIV/AIDS. In the discussion, Sinha also will address the role of international organizations, international donor agencies, the World Trade Organization, and the controversy surrounding intellectual property rights of the pharmaceutical companies.

**\*\*\*NOTE:** As the *New York Times* reported Sunday, a "study, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found that 56,300 people became newly infected with H.I.V in 2006, compared with the 40,000 figure the agency has cited as the recent annual incidence of the disease. The findings confirm that H.I.V., the virus that causes AIDS, has its greatest effect among gay and bisexual men of all races (53 percent of all new infections) and among African-American men and women." Link to article:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/03/health/03aids.html?\\_r=1&scp=1&sq=HIV%20CDC&st=cse&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/03/health/03aids.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=HIV%20CDC&st=cse&oref=slogin)

#### **\*\*\*Media Registration**

Members of the media are invited to attend any of the sessions at JSM. Registration is required; call Rosanne Desmone at 703.946.3820 or email to [rosanne@amstat.org](mailto:rosanne@amstat.org) to request credentials. Press credentials also can be requested at the Special Assistance Desk in the registration area of the conference.

#### **About JSM**

The 2008 JSM is the 168th annual meeting of the ASA. JSM is held jointly with the American Statistical Association (ASA), the International Biometric Society (ENAR and WNAR), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS), and the Statistical Society of Canada. Organized by ASA, JSM is the world's largest annual gathering of statisticians, bringing some 5,200 statisticians to Denver. Visit the

JSM newsroom at <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2008/index.cfm?fuseaction=newsroom> for more information.

### **About the American Statistical Association**

The American Statistical Association (ASA), a scientific and educational society founded in Boston in 1839, is the second oldest continuously operating professional society in the United States. ASA held its first annual meeting in 1840 with 10 people in attendance. For more than 160 years, ASA has been providing its 18,000 members serving in academia, government, and industry and the public with up-to-date, useful information about statistics. The ASA has a proud tradition of service to statisticians, quantitative scientists, and users of statistics across a wealth of academic areas and applications. For additional information about the American Statistical Association, please visit the association's web site at <http://www.amstat.org> or call 703.684.1221.

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