



CITY OF HOUSTON

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It is widely accepted that the discovery of effective antimicrobial therapy is one of the most important advances in public health. Unfortunately, in the last decade we have seen a dramatic rise in multi-drug resistant organisms and the appearance of bacteria that are unresponsive to modern day antimicrobials. Resistant infections not only result in increased morbidity and mortality but also significant increase in healthcare costs and compromise patient safety. It is well accepted that an interdisciplinary antimicrobial stewardship program is one of the keys to slowing this trend.

Recently, the Executive Office of the President, commissioned a council of advisors on science and technology (known as PCAST) to provide recommendations on combating antibiotic resistance. In the PCAST report, CMS will require by the end of 2017 (Conditions of Participation) U.S. hospitals, critical access hospitals, and long-term care and nursing home facilities to have in place robust ASP that adhere to best practices (CDC Core Elements).

In the spirit of this recommendation, we are convening the **First Annual Houston Antimicrobial Stewardship Symposium** that will be held on Thursday, March 5th from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services, 4th Floor, Department Operations Center (DOC) Training Room. The keynote speaker at the symposium will be **Arjun Srinivasan, MD (CAPT, USPHS)**. Dr. Srinivasan is the Associate Director for Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Programs, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases.

The goal of the conference is to bring together healthcare professionals in Houston and surrounding areas to work together across our community to strengthen our collective work in preserving antibiotics in our community. Please let us know of your willingness to participate in this symposium. Space is limited to this event and space will be held on a first come, first serve basis. To confirm your attendance, please click the link below to register. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Kubala at Amanda.Kubala@houstontx.gov

<https://www.registertoattend.com/Event-Registration/RegInfo.aspx?Code=HoustonAntimicrobialStewardshipSymposium>

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Raouf R. Arafat in black ink.

Raouf R. Arafat, MD, MPH
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