



Health, Science & Nonprofit
Communications/Public Relations

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For Immediate Release

DENNIS TARTAGLIA NAMED TO PRSA HEALTH ACADEMY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

NEW YORK, NY - Jan. 22, 2009 – Dennis Tartaglia has been named vice chair, communications of the national board of directors (executive committee) of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Health Academy. Tartaglia is president and founder of Tartaglia Communications, a strategic firm specializing in health, science and nonprofit public relations and communications. With approximately 800 members, the Health Academy is PRSA’s largest Professional Interest Section, and the largest network of health care public relations and communications professionals in the world.

Tartaglia’s appointment was announced by long-time board member and newly elected chair Garland Stansell, MPPM, who serves as chief communications officer, Children’s Health System, Birmingham, Ala. “We are thrilled to have Dennis serve in this position,” says Stansell. “This is an exciting and challenging time to work in health communications, and it is great to have Dennis on the board to help us promote the highest standards and provide educational opportunities for our profession.”

“It is an honor to be named to this position at this critical point in history,” says Tartaglia, who has served on the board since 2007. “I look forward to working with the Health Academy board to help our members take a leadership role in shaping the nation’s health care discussion.”

Joining Tartaglia and Stansell on the 2009 board are officers: Chair-elect Paula Pedene, APR, public affairs officer, Carl T. Hayden Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Phoenix, Ariz.; Immediate Past Chair Richard G. Buck, chief communications officer, Bayada Nurses, Mount Laurel, N.J.; Secretary Joyce Lofstrom, MS, APR, senior manager, corporate communications, HIMSS, Chicago, Ill.; Vice Chair, Programming, and Nancy F. Hughes, director of communications and marketing, National Health Council, Washington, D.C.

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Also elected to three-year terms to the Health Academy board of directors were: Ben Garrett, executive producer, On the Scene Productions, Atlanta, Ga.; Christina C. Evans, marketing communications manager, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Jackie Fishman, APR, senior consultant/external affairs, Blue Cross & Blue Shield Association, Washington, D.C.; Lisa Johnson, vice president, public relations and marketing, Blue Mountain Health System, Lehighton, Pa.; Beth L. Toal, public relations manager, Saint Luke's Health System, Boise, Idaho; and Kurt Wise, Ph.D., APR, chair, Public Relations Department, Quinnipiac University School of Communications, Hamden, Conn.

Board members continuing their terms include: Deborah Davis, ABC, APR, principal, Triad Public Relations Inc., Fishers, Ind.; K. Leigh Fazzina, senior healthcare communications consultant, Philadelphia, Pa.; Lorri Rishar Jandron, president and CEO, Edge Partnerships, Lansing, Mich.; Marc Kaplan, director, communications, University of Pennsylvania – Penn Medicine, Philadelphia, Pa.; Ellyn J. Pollack, MA, APR, president, Pollack Communications, Potomac, Md.; Deborah Saline, APR, Fellow PRSA, vice president, COO, PRWorks, Inc., Camp Hill, Pa.; and Drenda Williams Witt, director, collaborative network marketing, JPS Health Network, Fort Worth, Texas.

About the PRSA Health Academy

The Health Academy is the largest Professional Interest Section within PRSA. Through the convergence of health care and public relations, the Academy promotes excellence in communications and an educational dialogue across the entire health care industry for the professional enhancement of its members. For more information, visit www.healthacademy.prsa.org

About the Public Relations Society of America

The Public Relations Society of America (www.prsa.org), headquartered in New York City, is the world's largest organization for public relations professionals with nearly 32,000 professional and student members. PRSA is organized into 109 Chapters and 10 Districts nationwide, and 20 Professional Interest Sections and Affinity Groups, which represent business and industry, counseling firms, independent practitioners, military, government, associations, hospitals, schools, professional services firms and nonprofit organizations. The Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) has 298 Chapters at colleges and universities throughout the United States, and one Chapter in Argentina.

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