

For Immediate Release

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WALSTON RECEIVES ACHE'S 2008 HEALTH MANAGEMENT RESEARCH AWARD

CHICAGO, August 1, 2008—**Stephen L. Walston, PhD, FACHE**, principal investigator, and **Amir A. Khaliq, PhD**, project director, received the American College of Healthcare Executives' 2008 Health Management Research Award of \$25,000 to launch a study titled "An Exploration of the Purpose, Value and Impact of Professional Development Activities in Hospitals and Health Systems."

As healthcare organizations become increasingly more complex, greater demands are placed on hospital and healthcare system leaders. To prepare for these challenges, healthcare organizations promote the professional development and growth of managers and executives through programs such as continuing education, mentoring, credentialing and membership in professional associations. According to Walston and Khaliq, though such programs have existed for many years, their purposes and functions are not well understood. The researchers hope to better understand the extent and purpose of healthcare leaders' professional development.

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“I believe our research will help the field of healthcare management better understand how we can best implement and obtain the best benefit from professional development,” says Walston. “As a former hospital executive and now an academic, I have experienced the need for better focused professional development in our organizations and am hopeful that our research will help further this goal.”

The research will explore CEOs’ attitudes, preferences and expectations regarding the professional development of managers and executives. It also will seek to understand structures, processes and mechanisms employed for professional development; how it is linked to career development; and how healthcare organizations evaluate the value and return on investment of professional development programs.

ACHE introduced the Health Management Research Award in 1988 to enhance managerial effectiveness and career opportunities in health services administration. It is awarded annually through monies left to the Foundation of the American College of Healthcare Executives by the late Foster G. McGaw, founder of the American Hospital Supply Corporation. The award is granted to ACHE affiliates who are full-time faculty members of health administration programs. Selections for the award are made by ACHE’s Higher Education and Research Committee.

Walston serves as an associate professor and the director of the University of Oklahoma’s School of Public Health, Department of Health Administration and Policy, Executive Education Programs. He holds a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School, completing the requirements of both the Healthcare Systems and Management departments with a minor in statistical methods. Prior to pursuing his academic career, Walston served as a chief executive officer for 10 years and as an assistant administrator for four years in hospitals in the Western United States.

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Khaliq has more than 25 years' experience in healthcare delivery, public health and health services research. He holds a PhD in health administration from the University of Toronto and masters of science degrees in public health and health services from the University of London and the University of California.

The American College of Healthcare Executives is an international professional society of more than 30,000 healthcare executives who lead hospitals, healthcare systems and other healthcare organizations. ACHE is known for its prestigious credentialing and educational programs and its annual Congress on Healthcare Leadership, which draws more than 4,500 participants each year. ACHE is also known for its journals, the *Journal of Healthcare Management* and *Frontiers of Health Services Management* and its magazine, *Healthcare Executive*, as well as groundbreaking research and career development and public policy programs. ACHE's publishing division, Health Administration Press, is one of the largest publishers of books and journals on all aspects of health services management in addition to textbooks for use in college and university courses. Through such efforts, ACHE works toward its goal of being the premier professional society for healthcare leaders by providing exceptional value to its members.

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