



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL
INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION
Leading the advancement of professional interpreters

FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATELY

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The International Medical Interpreters Association Announces New Leadership

The IMIA is proud to announce the names of its newly elected leadership. The IMIA holds elections biannually. In the Fall of 2014 the IMIA held its elections. After elections, the IMIA Executive Board appointed more board members, bringing the number of board members to fifteen. At the same board meeting on December 4, 2014, the board elected the new officers for the organization. Every new board member has a term of 4 or 2 years, while officers hold terms of two years. The new term begins January 1, 2015. The IMIA Executive Board makes all governance decisions for the organization.

New IMIA Executive Board of Directors:

Juana Horton <i>President</i>	Anita Diabate Coelho, <i>President Elect</i>	Mohamad Anwar <i>Treasurer</i>	Anastasia Antoniou <i>Secretary</i>
Maria D. Gatej	Cynthia Schenck	Eric Candle	Iliana Rivera
Maurizio di Fresco	Dennis Caffrey	Chris Williams	Kazumi Takesako
Maria Bola-Ferreiro	Patricia Alonzo	Marlene Obermeyer	

“We have an outstanding leadership team for the new term starting in 2015. We have much to celebrate. The role of the medical interpreter is a strategically crucial role, and one wrong word may mean the difference between life and death,” said Ms. Horton. “So we will continue to raise the bar of our standards and the strength of our U.S. and international educational programs,” said Juana Horton, IMIA incoming president.

Juana Horton became IMIA president after serving over a year as President-Elect. Horton is the President and CEO of Horton Interpreting Services Inc., one of the largest Interpreting and Translation Companies in Rhode Island, working in over 200 languages with over 200 professional translators and interpreters. Ms. Horton, who is Venezuelan-American, has over 15 years of practical application experience in translating and interpreting. She is a member of the IMIA, ATA, NAJIT and the NETA. In the course of her career, her achievements have been recognized with the following awards: 2000, "Small Business Leader of the Year" the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce. The U.S. Small Business Administration's "RI Minority Small Business Person" of the year 2002 and 2003, Rhode Island and New England's "Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year". 2004, YWCA's Hallmark Women Award, "Women's Economic Empowerment". 2008, "Woman in Business" from the Women's Center of RI . 2007, "Entrepreneur" RI Genesis center. 2006, "Healthcare Business Leader of the Year" national Association of Hispanic Healthcare Executives. 2009, " Influential Women Behind Hispanic

Chambers " Morris County Hispanic chamber of Commerce. Ms. Horton currently serves and has served on the following Boards; Blue Cross and Blue Shield of RI, Providence Foundation, R.I Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce, RI Hospital Board of Governors, Butler Hospital Board of Governors, Phoenix House of New England, RI School of Design Arts Committee, Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of RI, Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, and the Providence Economic Development Partnership Board.

“Under Juana's leadership, the IMIA will continue to deliver excellent results through a professional volunteer team of Directors, Chairpersons, and both National and International Representatives, delivering greatly needed solutions for our ongoing interpreters’ issues,” said Anita Coelho Diabate, IMIA soon to be President-elect.

About the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) IMIA is an umbrella non-profit organization that advocates for qualified medical interpreting for every language minority patient. Working with over 12,000 professionals in the field, IMIA promotes all standards and best practices in the field of medical interpreting. As an international trade association of medical interpreters, it represents practicing medical interpreters as the ultimate experts in medical interpreting. It is also the only national trade association of medical interpreters in the US, and is an official active member of FIT, the Federation of Interpreters and Translators, an international organization comprised of trade associations of interpreters and translators worldwide. IMIA developed the first code of ethics for interpreters and medical interpreter educators, standards of practice, annual conference, Education, Terminology Resources, and Interpreter Registries. In 2009 launched the National Board for Medical Interpreter Certification, and developed the first national certification for medical interpreters. In 2013 IMIA formed the Commission for Medical Interpreter Education and launched the first standards for Medical Interpreter Education, and the accreditation program for educational programs. IMIA continues to be a pioneer in the field with its recent work to develop the first Medical Interpreter Instructor Certification Program.

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