



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Eating Disorder Coalition for Research, Policy, & Action  
Honors Advocates, Researchers, and Members of Congress

The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) will honor leading researchers, activists, publishers, and elected officials on June 29 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Honorary chairs for the event are Representative Jim Ramstad (R-MN) and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY).

Former EDC Board President David Herzog, M.D., will receive an award for visionary leadership. Herzog founded the EDC in 2000 after nearly 30 years of witnessing firsthand the struggles patients encountered while trying to access care through their insurance companies, many of which did not deem an eating disorder to be of sufficient medical necessity to warrant coverage. Dr. Herzog told reporters recently, *"The development of a coalition of organizations dedicated to advocacy for the eating disorder patient was an act of necessity and compassion for the community I serve."*

Jim Mitchell, M.D., will receive the 2005 Award for Research. He has been a leader in the field of eating disorders for 25 years, beginning at a time when the issues of anorexia and bulimia were largely ignored, if at all acknowledged. He realized that *"the fact that these were primarily disorders that affected girls and women, and had been neglected by the mainstream researchers, many of whom were men, seemed unfair to me."* Dr. Mitchell set out to dispel myths and bring legitimacy to a very real, very misunderstood group of disorders.

The EDC will honor Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) for his positions on marketing to children and fighting chronic disease, and Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) for her advocacy for eating disorder awareness. D.C. activist Rachel Beckman will receive an award for her work on a national speaking tour. Publishers Leigh and Lindsey Cohn will be honored for their service as the top publisher and marketer of eating disorder titles. Gail Schoenbach, a national eating disorder spokesperson and activist, will receive the 2005 Advocacy Award, and marathon runner Heather Warnken will be honored for her fund raising on behalf of the coalition.

Tickets for the 2005 Awards Dinner and other Advocacy Week activities are available online at [www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org](http://www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org), or by calling (202) 543-9570.

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The EDC represents 27 organizations active in research, treatment, prevention, and advocacy. The mission of the organization is to advance federal recognition of eating disorders as a public health priority. The group provides policy-related information to elected officials, federal employees, and the media.

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