

## RE: A CALL FOR CONFERENCE PROPOSALS

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to formally invite you to be an integral part of the premiere national conference on prescription drug use, abuse, return, and disposal.

We are announcing a call for proposals to present at The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Maine Benzodiazepine Study Group International Conference and 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Unused Drug Return Conference, taking place on October 31 & November 1, 2007 in Portland, Maine.

This conference is designed for health care professionals, policy makers, law enforcement personnel, environmentalists, substance abuse professionals, and others concerned with the human and environmental impact of benzodiazepines and other prescription drugs.

One conference track addresses the multitude of issues surrounding the appropriate uses, misuse and alternatives to benzodiazepines, a class of medications used to treat anxiety, stress and insomnia, as well as other prescription medications. Pertinent health safety and improved medication prescribing practices will be considered as well.

A second track focuses on the environmental and social impact of unused prescription drugs stored in homes and flushed or otherwise discarded into the environment. Innovative return and disposal policy and program responses will also be illustrated.

At this time, we are accepting proposals for presentations in both conference tracks. Possible topic may include: trends in prescription use or abuse, program strategies for successful drug disposal projects, legislation and policies effecting prescription drug use and disposal, results of prescription drug return projects, and alternatives to benzodiazepines.

If you would like to participate in this exciting event, please submit a 1-page proposal of your presentation to Len Kaye by May 15, 2007 (electronic submissions only please: [len.kaye@umit.maine.edu](mailto:len.kaye@umit.maine.edu)). Please include the following information:

- The title and a one paragraph description of your presentation
- Your name, degree(s), title, and organizational affiliation
- The preferred conference track of your presentation- "Prescription Use and Abuse" or "Drug Return and Disposal"
- The preferred length for your presentation. Most are 30 minutes, although 15 minute and 1 hour presentations are also acceptable.

Each individual or organization may submit more than one proposal. Applicants will be notified of a decision by June 30, 2007. (Please note that the submission of a proposal cannot guarantee its acceptance for presentation.) As a courtesy, all presenters will have their conference fee waived.

I encourage you to forward this "Call for Proposals" to your colleagues. For more information and an announcement suitable for posting, please visit <http://www.mainebenzo.org/> Please contact me at [len.kaye@umit.maine.edu](mailto:len.kaye@umit.maine.edu) with any questions.

Lenard W. Kaye, D.S.W., Ph.D.  
Director, Center on Aging  
Professor, School of Social Work  
5723 Donald P. Corbett Building, Rm 334  
University of Maine  
Orono, Maine 04469  
telephone: 207-581-3483; fax: 207-581-4490  
e-mail: [len.kaye@umit.maine.edu](mailto:len.kaye@umit.maine.edu)  
[www.mainecenteronaging.org](http://www.mainecenteronaging.org)