



INTERVENTION

MEDIA ADVISORY
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PRIME TIME FOR ADDICTION ISSUES

Intervention Writers and Producers Get Expert Advice

Los Angeles – Top experts on the science and psychology of addiction will discuss cutting-edge research about addiction with the producers and writers from A&E's Emmy Award-winning series **Intervention** on Monday, August 9, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Writers Guild of America, West (WGAW) headquarters in Los Angeles.

The WGAW is located at 7000 W. Third Street, Los Angeles, CA, 90048. The event is open to the media. For press inquiries contact Kurt Schemper, Supervising Producer of Intervention at 818-728-4127 or email kschemper@grbtv.com.

Dr. Tom McLellan, Deputy Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), will speak about emerging drug abuse issues, and **Dr. Adam Leventhal**, assistant professor at the USC Keck School of Medicine, will speak about the role that genetics and personality traits play in drug addiction. Co-sponsored by Hollywood, Health & Society (HH&S), a program of the Norman Lear Center based at the USC Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism, A&E/Intervention, and the WGAW, the event kicks off of a new bi-monthly speaker series in which experts help **Intervention's** creative team tell accurate and compelling stories about all forms of addiction.

Dr. McLellan serves as ONDCP Director R. Gil Kerlikowske's primary advisor on drug control issues and assists in the formulation and implementation of the President's National Drug Control Strategy. His contributions to the advancement of substance abuse research and the application of these findings to treatment systems and public policy have changed the landscape of addiction science and improved the lives of

countless Americans and their families. Dr. Leventhal is an assistant professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine in the USC Keck School of Medicine. He also is a faculty member of the USC Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research, the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the USC Institute for Genetic Medicine.

Said **Intervention** executive producer Dan Partland, “We want to ensure that we are depicting the stories of those we profile on the series accurately, which is why it is crucial that we stay on top of the latest research.”

Added HH&S director Sandra de Castro Buffington, “The writers and producers of *Intervention* are in a unique position to entertain and inform viewers about addiction – not only about the disease itself, but also about prevention and healing. Tom McLellan and Adam Leventhal bring an insider’s view of addiction and true stories from the frontlines.”

Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, The California Endowment, the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Division of Transplantation and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Hollywood, Health & Society provides entertainment industry professionals with accurate and timely information for health storylines, including online materials, and consultations and briefings with experts. Based at the USC Annenberg School’s Norman Lear Center, HH&S is a one-stop shop for writers, producers and others in search of credible information on a wide range of public health topics. For more information about resources for writers, go to www.usc.edu/hhs.

Twice nominated and last year awarded the Emmy for Outstanding Reality Series, the five-time PRISM Award-winning series “**Intervention**” profiles people whose dependence on drugs and alcohol or other compulsive behavior has brought them to a point of personal crisis or estranged them from their friends and loved ones. Each episode ends with a surprise intervention that is staged by the family and friends of the addict, and which is conducted by one of two specialists: Jeff Van Vonderen and Candy Finnigan. The series has conducted 169 interventions since its premiere in March of 2005; 134 individuals are currently sober. Exclusive updated interviews with past subjects from the series first eight seasons are available on AETV.com/intervention.

The Writers Guild of America, West (WGAW) is a labor union representing writers of motion pictures, television, radio and Internet programming, including news and documentaries. Founded in 1933, the Guild negotiates and administers contracts that protect the creative and economic rights of its members. It is involved in a wide range of programs that advance the interests of writers, and is active in public policy and legislative matters on the local, national and international levels. For more information on the WGAW, please visit: www.wga.org.

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