

News Release: American Library Association

add one--ASCLA Health Care Program

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Holistic medicine, patient education, self-care and the role of the librarian in providing medical or health care information will be explored in the provocative program, "Libraries and Consumer Health Care Information," 2 - 5 p.m., Sunday, June 24, at the ALA Summer Conference in Dallas. The program is sponsored by the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA).

Aimed at public, medical, and institution librarians, as well as ASCLA members, this program is designed to serve as an introduction and training session for librarians concerned with consumer health care information.

The program will feature interviews with John Travis, M.D., Director of the Wellness Resource Center, California; Keith Sehnert, M.D., author of How To Be Your Own Doctor - Sometimes; Ellen Gartenfeld, Coordinator, Community Health Information Network, Mt. Auburn Hospital, Cambridge, MA; and a representative from the American Medical Association. During a panel discussion, the speakers will respond to each other and to questions and comments from the audience.

The audience will become active participants in two-minute exercise breaks and in group discussion of related topics including: "Consumer Health -- No Recalls Allowed," Self-Health -- Me, My Doctor and I,"

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"CHIPS -- Doing It Good Back Home," CHIN -- Doing It Together (Networks), "Getting Through To YA's," "AMA -- Body Politics," and "Practitioners' Rap."

"Within the last several years, consumers have prodded the medical profession to loosen its grip on what is considered to be their exclusive domain of health care," said Lynda Netherland, ASCLA Conference Program Committee member and Director of the Calcasieu Parish Public Library, Lake Charles, LA. "As consumers learn more skills in recognition, evaluation and treatment of their own health problems, they will require and demand readily available sources of information covering their health concerns," she continued.

"We believe that accessibility of this information can be facilitated by public libraries, cooperative library networks, state library agencies and institutional libraries," Netherland explained.