



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Largest National Dialysis Patient Led Group Launches Online Classroom to Educate Consumers about Issues of Concern to Kidney Patients

First Lesson Teaches the Importance of Nutrition and a Balanced Diet; Sponsored by Shire Pharmaceuticals

Washington D.C. (September 22, 2008) – Dialysis Patient Citizens (DPC) – a nationwide, non-profit patient advocacy group comprised of more than 23,000 dialysis and pre-dialysis patients and family members working to advance the quality of life of dialysis patients – is pleased to announce its launch of an online tool, DPC Classroom, to educate consumers about issues of concern to the kidney community. Topics will vary from vascular access to home dialysis options to keep readers on top of the latest subjects of interest to the community.

The first DPC classroom was created to teach the importance of diet and nutrition. Specifically, the lesson informs the reader about what dialysis patients need to know about the foods they eat. The online tool covers four specific topics, including nutrition management, a kidney friendly diet, community support and the role of medication in nutrition.

“We are pleased to be able to provide this online learning tool to members of the kidney community,” said DPC Executive Director Chad Lennox. “Education draws us closer to prevention, and the addition of the DPC Classroom will enhance our ability to educate Americans about the importance of kidney health.

This initial educational classroom is a partnership between DPC and Shire Pharmaceuticals to provide online key educational materials to DPC membership. Shire grants fund high quality, effective educational programs for healthcare providers that improve outcomes for patients.

DPC will be launching additional classrooms in the coming months. The next classroom will focus on dialysis modality options including home dialysis.

To learn more about DPC’s Classroom, please visit <http://www.dpcclassroom.org/#>.

About Dialysis Patient Citizens

Dialysis Patient Citizens (DPC) is a nonprofit patient organization dedicated to improving dialysis patients’ quality of life by developing awareness of dialysis issues, advocating for dialysis patients, improving the partnership between patients and caregivers, and promoting favorable public policy. To learn more about DPC, please visit www.dialysispatients.org.

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