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Invitation to Cover

“Why Curse? Why Not?”
PENN Psychiatry Presents a Panel Discussion Looking at Cursing from a Linguistic,
Sociological, and Psychological Perspective

(PHILADELPHIA) – What makes one four letter word profane and another docile? The
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine’s Department of Psychiatry and The
Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia will host “Why Curse? Why Not?” – an
interdisciplinary forum aimed at understanding the development, diffusion, and taboo of
cursing from a linguistic, sociological, and psychological perspective.

WHERE: University of Pennsylvania
Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall
3417 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

WHEN: February 1, 2007
7 p.m.

WHO: Roger Abrahams, PhD, Hum Rosen Professor in Folklore and Folklife and
Professor of English Emeritus, University of Pennsylvania

Anjan Chatterjee, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Neurology and
Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, University of Pennsylvania School of
Medicine
Dr. Chatterjee will present examples of neurological disease to discuss the biologic bases of speech, language, and systems that might contribute to cursing.

Elio Frattaroli, MD, Faculty, The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia

Carolyn Marvin, PhD, Frances Yates Professor in the Annenberg School for Communications, University of Pennsylvania

Robert Blair St. George, PhD, Associate Professor of History, Center for Folklore and Ethnography, University of Pennsylvania

For additional information, contact Sarah Lichter at 215-746-7248 or Kate Olderman at 215-349-8369.

This event is open to the public.

Refreshments will be served.

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**PENN Medicine** is a $2.9 billion enterprise dedicated to the related missions of medical education, biomedical research, and high-quality patient care. PENN Medicine consists of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine (founded in 1765 as the nation's first medical school) and the University of Pennsylvania Health System.

Penn's School of Medicine is ranked #2 in the nation for receipt of NIH research funds; and ranked #3 in the nation in U.S. News & World Report's most recent ranking of top research-oriented medical schools. Supporting 1,400 fulltime faculty and 700 students, the School of Medicine is recognized worldwide for its superior education and training of the next generation of physician-scientists and leaders of academic medicine.

The University of Pennsylvania Health System includes three hospitals, all of which have received numerous national patient-care honors [Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania Hospital, the nation's first hospital; and Penn Presbyterian Medical Center]; a faculty practice plan; a primary-care provider network; two multispecialty satellite facilities; and home care and hospice.

This release is available online at
http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/news/News_Releases/jan07/discussion-cursing.htm