HCD-QMD Reception Keynote Speaker Announced

Robert L. Jesse, M.D., Ph.D., principal deputy under the secretary for health in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), will give the keynote address during a reception for ASQ Healthcare Division (HCD) and Quality Management Division (QMD) members at the 2012 Quality Institute for Healthcare Conference, being held in conjunction with the World Conference on Quality and Improvement, in Anaheim, CA.

The speech, which is scheduled at 6 p.m. Monday, May 21 will cover the use and value of process improvement in transforming the VA Health System. It will be followed by a wine tasting reception replete with a short lecture by accomplished sommelier and ASQ HCD member Graciela Perez along with California wines and an assortment of cheese. Members of the HCD and QMD, as well as those that are participating in Marshall Plan Projects in Southern California and Kansas City, are invited to attend. For those planning to attend, please RSVP to Graciela Perez at gperez12@verizon.net, or contact her for more information.

Appointed to his current role on July 4, 2010, Dr. Jesse leads clinical policies and programs for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the nation’s largest integrated healthcare system. Prior to his appointment, he served as the acting principal deputy under the secretary for health.

As the chief consultant for medical surgical services in VA’s Office of Patient Care Services and national program director for cardiology, Dr. Jesse implemented broad reforms in the delivery of specialty, sub-specialty and emergency care that have improved the quality of care across the VA healthcare system. Last year, he received the Raymond D. Bahr Award of Excellence for his work to improve emergency cardiac care.
After receiving his bachelor's degree in biochemistry from the University of New Hampshire in 1974, Dr. Jesse worked as a research associate at the Harvard School of Public Health. In 1980, he earned his doctorate in biophysics at the Medical College of Virginia and his medical degree in 1984. He has articles published in the areas of acute cardiac care, systems management and quality in health care.

Dr. Jesse is a diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine with specialty boards in cardiovascular medicine. He is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology, in which he served as governor. He is a fellow of the American Heart Association and currently president of its Richmond Metro Chapter. He is a tenured professor of internal medicine and cardiology within the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System.