

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1st International NLN Patient Summit
Lymphedema: Building Pathways
to Health & Wellness

August 18-20, 2005



**National Lymphedema Network's Kicks off Patient Summit to offer
Rare Health and Wellness Opportunities to Lymphedema Patients**

October 1, 20014: SPARKS/RENO, NV: The 1st National Lymphedema Network (NLN) Patient Summit, **Lymphedema: Building Pathways to Health & Wellness**, will take place **August 18-20, 2005** at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel & Resort.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Presented by the **National Lymphedema Network (NLN)**, this premier biennial educational program is specifically for:

- ❖ Lymphedema patients
- ❖ Those at-risk (cancer patients after lymph node dissection and/or radiation)
- ❖ Family members/caregivers
- ❖ Patient advocates

WHAT WILL BE COVERED?

This unique program focuses solely on **lymphedema and the lymphatic system**, covering **topics unique to the needs of lymphedema patients and those at-risk**, such as:

- ❖ Basic science of the lymphatic system and lymphedema
- ❖ Risk-reduction
- ❖ Self-care methods
- ❖ Treatment options
- ❖ Insurance reimbursement and legislative issues
- ❖ Advocacy training and support.

Opportunities to learn from lymphedema specialists and to network with leading manufacturers and suppliers in the field are highlights of the NLN Patient Summit.

WHY IS THIS SUMMIT IMPORTANT?

Because every cancer patient who has lymph nodes removed and/or radiation is at-risk—for the rest of their lives—of developing lymphedema, it is estimated that nearly **25-35% of all cancer survivors (including breast, prostate, gynecological, melanoma, head and neck, and others)** may develop lymphedema in their lifetime (secondary lymphedema). Add to this the hundreds of thousands of people born with the condition, or who develop it at puberty or later in life (primary/idiopathic lymphedema), and the numbers are staggering.

Lymphedema is chronic, often incapacitating, disfiguring, and is potentially life-threatening if left untreated. **Patient education plays a key role in improving awareness and quality of life.**

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