



Contact: Lynda Bramble – 215.448.1176
Stefanie Cerulli – 215.448.1152

SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT MAKE YOU DO IT?
1ST In Series of Public Forums on Exploring Issues Surrounding Vaccines,
“Vaccine Mandates and Children”

Philadelphia, PA – March 20, 2008 – The first in a series of public forums on vaccine science, ethics and policy, will take place on **Wednesday, March 26th at 7:00 PM** in Franklin Theater at the Franklin Institute. “*Vaccination Exploration*,” part 1, tackles the issue of government mandates and children, featuring experts in vaccine science, public health, pediatrics and bioethics from throughout the Delaware Valley. Moderated by Associate Editor of the Editorial Board of The Philadelphia Inquirer, **John Timpane**, featured panelists include **Arthur L. Caplan**, Ph.D, Director of the Center for Bioethics at University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; **Paul A. Offit**, MD, Chief of Division of Infectious Diseases at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; **Eddy Bresnitz**, MD, MS, Deputy Commissioner/State Epidemiologist for the State of New Jersey; and **Frederic Bertley**, Ph.D, Vice President of the Center for Innovation in Science Learning at The Franklin Institute.

This program will explore such issues as immunization and child health, particularly since legislation varies from state to state. Included in the panel discussion are: a case study on pre-school influenza vaccination and how New Jersey arrived at their decision to mandate; a discussion on how vaccine related issues are affected by the media, as well as the ethics of mandating vaccines in this country and how vaccine policy is handled in other countries.

The “*Vaccination Exploration*” series is presented by The Franklin Institute in partnership with The Center for Vaccine Ethics and Policy, a program of the Center for Bioethics, University of Pennsylvania; The Wistar Institute Vaccine Center; and The Vaccine Education Center at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

The program will begin promptly at 7:00 PM and end at 8:30 PM, allowing sufficient time for Q & A. Tickets for this public forum panel discussion are free, but space is limited and registration is required. **Make your reservations by calling 215.448.1254.**

For more information, visit www.fi.edu/wellness or www.centerforvaccineethicsandpolicy.org

Founded in honor of America's first scientist, Benjamin Franklin, The Franklin Institute is a renowned and innovative leader in the field of science and technology learning, as well as a dynamic center of activity. Welcoming 1.75 million visitors in 2007, it is dedicated to creating a passion for science by offering new and exciting access to science and technology in ways that would dazzle and delight its namesake. For more information, please visit www.fi.edu.