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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Advancing & Redefining Communities for Emergency Management**

LOS ANGELES – VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) is scheduled to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Advancing & Redefining Communities (ARC) for Emergency Management conference on Dec. 10-11 at The California Endowment (TCE) in Los Angeles. VAGLAHS Senior Public Health Official Aram Dobalian is VA's special guest for this event; and VHA Office of Nursing Services Donna Gage is scheduled to participate in the workshop on advancing the role of nurses in public health preparedness and response on Dec. 9 at TCE.

This year's theme is "Casting a Wider Net – Moving from Collaboration to Coalition." ARC 2014 will bring together hospital and health system leaders, government decision-makers, clinicians with an interest in emergency management, emergency managers, and researchers to network, share, and learn.

"ARC provides a venue for sharing new knowledge and evidence-based practices that VA can use to help VA improve its outreach to Veterans during disasters, and better ensure its continued ability to provide medical care to Veterans in the face of any disaster or emergency, including earthquakes, hurricanes, power outages, Ebola, pandemic influenza, or manmade events such as terrorist attacks," said Dobalian. "In addition, VA and its federal partners are using ARC to strengthen the pivotal role that nurses play as patient educators, responders, and decision-makers in disaster preparedness through improved efforts in education/training, practice, research and policy."

ARC is held in partnership with the Emergency Management Community Collaborative, the Veterans Emergency Management Evaluation Center (VEMEC), VA Office Public Health, VA Office of Nursing Services, VHA Office of Emergency Management, UCLA Health, Stanford Hospitals and Clinics, The California Endowment, Kaiser Permanente, UCLA School of Public Health, UCLA Anderson School of Management, International Medical Corps, UCLA International Medical Graduate Program, American Heart Association/American Stroke Association and Walden University. Through ARC, these organizations are committed to addressing today's leading emergency management concerns and represent another example of the collaborative relationship between VA and local community professionals and leaders to better serve our Veterans.

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