For Immediate Release

DR. CAROLINE S. BLAUM, NATIONALLY KNOWN GERIATRIC MEDICINE SPECIALIST, TO HELP LEAD AMERICAN FEDERATION FOR AGING RESEARCH

As Deputy Medical Officer, Will Help Guide Public Education and Grants Programs

New York, NY – August 10, 2012 – Nationally known geriatric medicine specialist Caroline S. Blaum, MD, MS, has been named Deputy Medical Officer of the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR), a newly created volunteer leadership role. Dr. Blaum is Director of the Division of Geriatrics and the Diane and Arthur Belfer Professor of Geriatric Medicine at NYU School of Medicine.

“AFAR has created this position to help extend our reach in all domains of geriatric medicine, including educating health professionals and the public, and stimulating clinical research to improve care of older adults,” said AFAR Medical Officer Richard W. Besdine, MD, Professor of Medicine and of Health Policy, Greer Professor of Geriatric Medicine, Director of the Center for Gerontology and Health Care Research, and Director of the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. “There is an increasing need for accurate and relevant information for and about the aging population. Dr. Blaum is a national leader in geriatrics; we could not have found a better person to fill this important new role.”

Dr. Blaum will provide overall medical leadership to AFAR and assist Dr. Besdine in public education activities and in giving direction and support to AFAR’s research and training grants programs. She will serve as spokesperson on clinical and geriatrics-related issues; work with the chairs of AFAR’s Beeson and MSTAR grants committees; fill in as vice-chair on the Hartford Foundation Centers of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine and Training national program office; provide scientific consultation to AFAR staff and review materials for scientific accuracy; and help set the agenda for AFAR’s scientific conferences.
“We are thrilled that Dr. Blaum has accepted this new leadership position, which is so critical to our mission,” said Stephanie Lederman, EdM, AFAR Executive Director. “She brings with her a wealth of expertise in geriatric medicine to help position AFAR as the leading organization supporting physicians and scientists interested in the aging process and aging-related diseases.”

AFAR funds a broad range of cutting-edge research, selecting projects that are most likely to increase knowledge about healthy aging. AFAR also focuses on initiatives to attract more physicians to specialize in geriatric medicine, as well as on creating knowledge-sharing opportunities for scientists and clinicians in order to drive research innovation, and on providing information to the public on new medical findings that can help people live longer lives, less susceptible to disease and disability.

Dr. Blaum has had a distinguished career advancing geriatrics and research in aging. She has built an active research program in epidemiology, translational and interventional research. Her research interests focus on models of care, complex patients, frailty, and diabetes in older adults. She has published nearly 70 peer-reviewed papers and chapters.

Dr. Blaum recently joined NYU School of Medicine from the University of Michigan, where she served as Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs at the Medical School and Associate Medical Director of the UM Faculty Group Practice. She led the UM Health System’s Population Health Program, including its activities in the Pioneer Accountable Care (ACO) Program and the Michigan Multipayer Advanced Primary Care Demonstration. From 2005-2010, she led the University of Michigan Health System’s successful effort in The Physician Group Practice Medicare Demonstration, a prototype for current ACO policy.

About AFAR
Founded in 1981, AFAR has championed the cause and supported the funding of science in healthier aging and age-related medicine. To address the shortage of physicians and researchers dedicated to the science of healthier aging, AFAR funds physicians and scientists probing the fundamental mechanisms of aging, as well as specific diseases associated with aging populations at critical points throughout their careers.

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