FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 1, 2014

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THE MINORITY RESEARCH CENTER ANNOUNCES GUEST SPEAKERS FOR NATIONAL MINORITY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
Public Health Gurus to Speak at Conference in Little Rock

(Pine Bluff, Arkansas - April 1, 2014) The Minority Research Center on Tobacco & Addictions (MRC), located on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB), will host Dr. Phillip S. Gardiner and Dr. Ron Peters, both long-standing public health researchers and activists, as the guest speakers for its first National Minority Research Symposium on Tobacco and Addictions.

The Symposium will be held May 14 – 15, 2014 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Little Rock, AR.

In 2011, leadership of the Arkansas Minority Initiative on Tobacco and Addictions (15% Set-A-Side) implemented the vision of a facility that would house all information and best practices regarding the impact of tobacco and addictions within minority communities. This effort became the Minority Research Center on Tobacco & Addictions, a prestigious clearinghouse for research on tobacco and other substance abuse, in regard to minority communities.

“We are humbled to have health gurus of such great caliber as Dr. Gardiner and Dr. Peters speaking at our first National Minority Research Symposium. Both of these dedicated professionals have created a movement in the minority health community that is unprecedented. The MRC and our constituents as a whole have so much to learn from both of them”, says Dr. Valandra German, Director of the Minority Research Center on Tobacco & Addictions.
Dr. Gardiner is the current Policy and Regulatory Sciences and Neurosciences and Nicotine Dependence Program Officer for the Tobacco Related Disease Research Program at the University of California. He also teaches a course on Health Disparities at Touro University in Vallejo. Dr. Gardiner received his Doctorate in Behavioral Sciences from the University of California at Berkeley.

Dr. Peters is a current Associate Professor of Behavioral Sciences at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health. He has published over 95 peer-reviewed papers in the professional literature and he has received over $5M dollars in federal grants to investigate health behaviors among incarcerated and vulnerable populations.

For more information on the Minority Research Center on Tobacco & Addictions or its National Symposium, visit www.minorityresearchcenter.org or call 870.730.1137. The Minority Research Center on Tobacco & Addictions is funded by the Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement.

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