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Contact: Kristin Queen Shaffer  
202-966-5557 x245  
[kshaffer@geneticalliance.org](mailto:kshaffer@geneticalliance.org)

**The Power of the Ear and the Voice: Genetic Alliance Announces National Awards  
For Advancing Health Through Listening and Reporting**

*Trailblazers in Healthcare and Publishing Recognized for Unique Contributions to  
Genetic Health Advancements*

WASHINGTON – March 11, 2010 – “Listening and communicating are skills we so often take for granted, but they are critical in breaking new ground in healthcare,” said Sharon Terry, president and chief executive officer of [Genetic Alliance](http://GeneticAlliance.org) in announcing two of the four awards the Alliance will present at its 2010 Annual Conference this July. Hal Dietz, M.D. will receive the Genetic Alliance’s Art of Listening Award and Joseph M. Valenzano will be honored with the Art of Reporting Award at the ceremonies at the Alliance’s Annual Awards Dinner on Saturday, July 17, 2010.

A world-renowned clinician and researcher, Dr. Dietz has been selected for the Art of Listening Award for being a role model for fellow clinicians and researchers as well as an inspiration to patients. He holds prominent positions as the Victor A. McKusick Professor of Genetics and Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, as an investigator in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and as director of the William S. Smilow Center for Marfan Research.

Just as significantly, though, Dr. Dietz has volunteered thousands of hours to advance the National Marfan Foundation’s mission of education, research and support. As Ms. Terry described, “In an age in which health providers are hard-pressed to pay attention to patients, Hal Dietz is a star. He is amazingly attentive to the needs of individuals and families affected by genetic conditions. The outpouring of love for him in the letters of support we received for his nomination was both overwhelming and inspiring.”

The Art of Reporting Award will honor highly-respected magazine publisher Valenzano for supporting families of children and adults with disabilities and special healthcare needs, as well as the physicians, allied healthcare professionals and others involved in their care and development. For the past 17 years, Valenzano has provided vital information on genetic health issues in his role as president, chief executive officer and publisher of EP Global Communications, Inc., which publishes *Exceptional Parent* magazine. “This magazine is probably the most significant communications vehicle for families living with exceptional children,” said Ms. Terry. “And the magazine is so rich in content and so valuable because of Joe’s intense interest in a broad panorama of issues from newborn screening to special needs in genetics.”

The Awards Dinner takes place during the Genetic Alliance Annual Conference,

*Advancing Novel Partnerships*, July 15-18, 2010. Genetic Alliance will also honor Art of Novel Partnership and Art of Advocacy awardees, both of whom will be announced soon. For more information and registration for the conference and the awards dinner, go to <http://www.geneticalliance.org/conference2010>.

For more information, contact Kristin Queen Shaffer at 202-966-5557 x245 or [kshaffer@geneticalliance.org](mailto:kshaffer@geneticalliance.org).

***About Genetic Alliance***

*Genetic Alliance transforms health through genetics, promoting an environment of openness centered on the health of individuals, families, and communities. Genetic Alliance brings together diverse stakeholders that create novel partnerships in advocacy; integrates individual, family, and community perspectives to improve health systems; and revolutionizes access to information to enable translation of research into services and individualized decision making. For more information about Genetic Alliance, visit <http://www.geneticalliance.org>.*