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The Addiction Institute of New York at St. Luke's & Roosevelt Hospitals to  
Host the 2010 Addiction Conference on March 5  
*5<sup>th</sup> Annual Addiction Conference to Focus on treatment options and new research as it  
relates to upcoming Rockefeller Drug Laws*

NEW YORK, NY – March 1, 2010 - The Addiction Institute of New York is hosting its 5<sup>th</sup> annual conference on Friday, March 5, 2010 at St. Luke's Hospital and this year the theme will be "Criminal Justice and Addiction Treatment: Beyond the Rockefeller Era". With the upcoming reevaluation of New York Rockefeller Laws, there are many experts who are calling for treatment over punishment in the new system.

Keynote speaker, Gabriel Sayegh, Director of the State Organizing and Policy Project and member of the Drug Policy Alliance of New York, will examine the current opportunity New York is facing to reform the Rockefeller Drug Laws, which have been in place for nearly 40 years. The conference and his address will examine the future of drug policy and whether or not science, compassion, health and human rights will continue to drive it.

"We are very excited about this year's conference," said Petros Levounis, MD, Director of the Addiction Institute of New York at St. Luke's & Roosevelt Hospitals. "By far, this is the most crucial topic we've covered in the five years since we began. Mandatory treatment for addiction and the reformation of the New York State Rockefeller Drug Laws are highly controversial."

Workshops led by physicians, social workers and substance abuse counselors will examine different aspects of the issue, such as mandatory therapy, the effects of drug policies on families and re-integrative therapies. Dr. Daniel Posner, Clinical Director at

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Trinity House, and Kevin Barry Heaney, Director of the Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit at The Addiction Institute of New York will present a panel of experts to discuss recent research findings on the effectiveness of a variety of therapeutic interventions, such as Motivational Interviewing, Mindfulness, Community Reinforcement, and Client Centered Therapy, in a workshop titled “**Treatment in the Post-Rockefeller Era: We Have the Body but What About the Heart and Mind?**”

Another Workshop called, “**The Family in the Post-Rockefeller Era: Helping Kin Stay Together**” will examine the impact on the parent-child relationship and provide practical suggestions on how to best work collaboratively with other agencies in order to stabilize family units and unify fractured social structures for treatment providers dealing with parents in the criminal justice system. This panel will be led by Licensed Social Workers Mary Schneider, Assistant Clinical Director at Trinity House, and Sheila Sullivan, Stop DWI/Brief Treatment Coordinator, from The Addiction Institute of New York.

Dr. Henrik Zakari, Attending Physician at the Inpatient Detoxification Unit for the The Addiction Institute of New York and Maurice Lacey, LMSW, MS Ed, CASAC, Executive Director of the Faith Mission Crisis Center, Inc. will lead a discussion on the benefits of a re-integrative therapeutic approach to help women and men who suffer from substance use disorders receive appropriate treatment, address psychosocial challenges in their everyday lives, and decrease recidivism in, “ **Life Skills in the Post-Rockefeller Era: The Challenge of Re-Integration.**”

The day-long conference will take place from 8:30am to 3:15pm at St. Luke’s Hospital Muhlenberg 4 Auditorium, at 421 West 113<sup>th</sup> Street. Six Continuing Education credit hours will be given to CASAC’s and social workers who attend.