



**For Immediate Release**  
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**Media Contact: Dr. Sat Bhattacharya**  
**C: 646-643-8543**  
**T: 646-643-8563**  
[bhattacs@harlemchildrensociety.org](mailto:bhattacs@harlemchildrensociety.org)  
[www.harlemchildrensociety.org](http://www.harlemchildrensociety.org)

**Nobel Laureate Dr. Richard Axel to talk and honor  
Harlem Students  
of the Harlem Children Society' Science, Engineering,  
Mathematics & Bio/Medical Internship Program 2007**  
**Changing the future of science & technology for under resourced & underserved  
High school and Undergraduate students one child at a time**

New York, NY – On Tuesday, August 14, 2007, at 10.30 AM, Harlem Children Society (HCS) will be hosting among other leading scientists, Dr. Richard Axel, the winner of 2004 Nobel Prize in Physiology & Medicine to address over 230 HCS students in the HCS's Science, Engineering, Mathematics & Bio/Medical Internship Program. The venue – the Uris Auditorium (1300 York Avenue between 68<sup>th</sup> & 69<sup>th</sup> street) of Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University, has already seen scores of leading scientists, researchers and engineers talk to our students in the program this year. The students are mostly from high school (all from extremely impoverished and underserved backgrounds; 97% students are minority – mostly black, Hispanic, American Indian and other minorities; and over 65% are young women).

Dr. Axel apart from his own work will motivate students in the program urging them to continue working hard in the sciences, math & engineering. He will also partake in honoring our students excelling in the program. The day will feature student presentations and featured talks by other leading scientists.

The weekly HCS workshops & lecture series, sponsored and organized by HCS, are a part of an extensive and intensive hands-on research training ground for our next generation of scientists, engineers and doctors – especially from under-resourced and under-served high school and undergraduate students.

This year's HCS class began its summer session in late June. In addition to full-time laboratory work, New York students attend the lecture series every Tuesday at the Cornell University Medical Center. They hear a variety of experts speak about their professions, providing insight into important current issues. So far educators from UNESCO & UNICEF, leading scientists, engineers and doctors from a variety of fields and disciplines have addressed our students. Students also present their projects during the lectures, keeping everyone aware of their progress in their laboratories. HCS also organizes satellite meetings and webcast the events live with other HCS students in the Hopi reservation in Arizona and Space centers at Wisconsin, Madison and University of Central Florida.

## About Harlem Children Society:

**Harlem Children Society (HCS)** is a New York community based nonprofit organization, founded in 2000 by Dr. Sat Bhattacharya, a cancer research scientist at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, that provides scientific education for select high school students (grades 7-12, and beyond) from under-resourced and under-served areas in New York City and the tri-state area and across the nation. Students are paired with mentors, who are top professionals in their field, and train and research on specific projects. The program identifies under-resourced and under-served communities, targets at-risk children and youth in those communities and provides them an opportunity to explore the world and their future through science, thereby helping to revitalize the community as a whole. It aims to develop a society for a better humanity by creating awareness in scientific literacy and social issues.

HCS - a 7 year old summer “bridge program” has grown exponentially – **increasing enrollment from 3 students from 2 high schools guided by one mentor (Dr. Sat Bhattacharya) in 2000 to over 230 students from 70 schools, guided by over 300 mentors in 65 leading research institutions like Cornell, Columbia, NYU, Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Mt. Sinai, NASA, Steven’s Institute of Technology and many others, with first-rate equipment and materials – which they would never be able to do in school. This year most students (~210) are in New York City;** and some spread out across the US from Camden in NJ, Detroit in MI, New Orleans in LA, to several Indian reservation across the country – including several in the Hopi reservation in AZ. Students were selected from well over a thousand applications. These are some of the smartest students in many scientific fields, and **come from extremely impoverished and underserved backgrounds; 97% students are minority – mostly black, Hispanic and American Indian and over 65% are young women.** All students receive a substantial stipend for their research. HCS’s rate of success is exemplified in the number of former students who have gone on to top colleges, including **Columbia, Rutgers, Dartmouth, Penn State, UMDNJ, Swarthmore, Cornell and other universities. Over 20% of HCS students continue their education in IVY league universities, and most of them opting for science and math. In addition, HCS has been honored with many awards, including, several New York Times Scholarships, Gates Millennium Scholarships, Posse scholarships, among several others.**

**Students perform research in a myriad of scientific and engineering fields – such important subjects as Celiac Disease, cancer treatment therapy, HIV/AIDS, neurological activity in the auditory system, environmental, nanotechnology and much more. Students interested in astronomy and space engineering have also been sent to the NASA at Kennedy Space Center in Florida and University of Wisconsin Madison. They also attend weekly workshops and lectures organized by HCS.**

HCS is gradually touching all four corners of the earth, and hopes to expand exponentially for the next several years - and has started a pilot program in several countries where there is a dire need of science education like in Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Columbia, and others.

Harlem Children Society Founder, Dr. Sat Bhattacharya, a research scientist, at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, has kept the dream afloat so that compromised; yet highly motivated students have access to the scientific knowledge that prepares them to be successful entrepreneurs and productive world citizens. He has been honored by the New York Academy of Sciences during Black History month as a leading educator in minority education in the sciences, and by New York Daily News as “50 unsung heroes of NY”. Dr. Bhattacharya, an immigrant from India, started Harlem Children Society with Harlem in mind, as more than a geographical location; but as a symbol of the drive to succeed and to achieve your dreams, inspite of the tremendous hardships and circumstances. HCS is keeping the dream alive and well, with its dedication to promoting an innovative science education program for children and youth living in under-resourced and under-served communities and school districts. It seeks to empower the youth of tomorrow with the skills to pursue higher education and career achievement and to give back to their communities by becoming innovate entrepreneurs and productive world citizens.

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