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To whom it may concern:

The American Heart Association collaborates with the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) to evaluate peer-reviewed, published scientific evidence related to emergency cardiovascular care (ECC) in an ongoing scientific consensus process. The ECC Committee of the American Heart Association recently published revised ECC Guidelines, in accordance with the outcome of the 2005 ILCOR consensus on science conference and within the context of medical practice and education in the Americas (available at no charge from americanheart.org/CPR).

The recommendations in the 2005 AHA Guidelines for ECC and CPR confirm the safety and effectiveness of many existing approaches, acknowledge that some may not be optimal, and introduce new treatments that have undergone intensive evaluation. These new recommendations do not imply that care based on earlier guidelines is either unsafe or ineffective, including the use of AEDs that are designed to conform to those earlier guidelines. For this reason and because of the critical importance of providing immediate care to a victim of cardiac arrest, the AHA encourages implementation of (and training for) life-saving medical emergency response plans (including AED programs) to continue without interruption or consideration of the pending publication of revised training materials.

Over the next 12 months, the American Heart Association will release revised training materials to support each of its ECC curricula. Preceding their release will be an interim training bulletin (in January 2006) that will provide guidance for the integration of the new guidelines into existing AHA training courses (including those that provide AED training).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Potts".

Jerry Potts, PhD
Director of Science
ECC Programs