- # Truth in Medicine - Advancing Patient Safety in the Nation's Capitol! - For Immediate Release!

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Lana Keeton and Truth in Medicine - Advancing Patient Safety in the Nation's Capitol

Lana Keeton, President and Founder of Truth in Medicine, continues to advance the work of the patient advocacy group through her outreach efforts that are increasingly landing the group in the public's eye.

Through hard work and perseverance, Keeton has earned a seat at the table in key venues. Ms. Keeton will present at Mass Torts Made Perfect in Las Vegas, April 20, 2012, is an invited guest lecturer at the UT Quest program at the University of Texas at Austin next January and sat on the FDA's Patient Stakeholder Panel Wednesday, March 28th in Washington, D.C. at the MDUFA III public meeting in advance of re-authorization by Congress this fall.

FDA's Public Workshop – Medical Device User Fee Program Public Meeting, March 28, 2012
http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/NewsEvents/WorkshopsConferences/ucm292860.htm

Lana Keeton was an invited FDA panel member at the FDA Public Workshop on the Medical Device User Fee Program. The FDA is eager to seek funding for the next five years of medical device reviews beginning on October 1 2012. Keeton reminded those in attendance that the agency needs the ability to put patient safety first.

"The MDUFA hearings aren't talking about patient safety. It's nowhere to be found," says Keeton. The patient advocate spoke on behalf of patients along with Kate Ryan of the National Women's Health Network and Paul Brown of the National Research Center for Women & Families.

The medical device industry has offered to double its funding of MDUFA to $595 million for the next five years beginning next fiscal year in exchange for heightened cooperation from the federal agency to bring medical devices to market faster.

Keeton was tough when she reminded the assembled group that that money is a drop in the bucket when compared to the $350 **billion** in annual revenues of the medical device industry and by what it spends to influence doctors and medical associations, to pay foundations, lobbyists, ghostwriters, in criminal fines to the Department of Justice and lastly to injured plaintiffs and their attorneys.

Given the current system, Keeton says Americans are not safe in light of industry's goal to protect the profits of their companies.

"I am here to speak for patient stakeholders who do not have a voice, who are sick and injured and disabled, some who are already dead and some who would welcome death not to be in pain anymore."

Keeton adds that when patients, sick from mesh, go to their doctors to be well often "what happens to them is despicable."

She reminded the gathered group of her own experience with a piece of Prolene polypropylene mesh that led to infections, 17 surgeries and one still ahead in June to remove the final 4 inch portion of Prolene mesh. Keeton says, "My bladder is now worth about a million dollars from medical treatment and lawsuits. A stark contrast to the approximate $1,200.00 the hospital paid to purchase the device from Ethicon in 2001."

Keeton and Truth in Medicine's Regulatory Affairs Director, Janet Holt, continue to call for clinical trials for all permanently placed medical devices be done before implanted into patients; patient labeling for all medical devices; for a patient registry for all permanently implanted medical devices so patients can make an informed decision and have the ability to track complications.

Keeton told the crowd**, "To make Americans safe, we must properly fund and properly man and give the best regulatory authority possible to one of the most important institutions in the American government, the FDA. The House of Representatives and the Senate and the President of the United States have to stop using the FDA as a political football. They have to come together in unity to do their most important job: protect the public health!"**

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Lana Keeton has been invited to discuss **"Synthetic Surgical Mesh: The Gold Standard?"** as a medical device expert at ***Mass Torts Made Perfect***, at the Wynn Hotel in Las Vegas, April 18-20, 2012.

Keeton will tell the group of assembled trial attorneys how medical marketing masquerades as "published studies and clinical trials," and debunk the myth of doctor error as a leading cause of synthetic surgical mesh complications. Keeton says lawyers need to understand how important it is to properly file an FDA adverse event report for each injured client, something the FDA cannot under law ignore when the numbers meet a critical mass.

Keeton believes the culture must change regarding devices and patient safety. The silence enforced on patient clients while they are in a lawsuit perpetuates the failures of the system. The harm suffered by these patients has to be reported to the FDA to stop others from being injured.

Keeton will urge attorneys to "Publicize yourself as the patient advocate and protector to your clients that you are. Attorneys, not doctors, not Industry and not the FDA, are sounding the alarm direct to injured patients through television commercials while industry is still covering up the harm to everyone: the FDA, patients, doctors and hospitals."

Keeton will appear Friday, April 20, 2012, during the 9:30 a.m. session on Pelvic Mesh: How to Represent the Victims, along with Robert Price of Levin Papantonio Thomas Mitchell Rafferty & Proctor, Amy Eskin of Hersh & Hersh, and Henry Garrard of Blasingame Burch Garrard Ashley.

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Lana Keeton as the Founder of Truth in Medicine has also been asked to be a guest lecturer for a course at the University of Texas, Austin in the January 15 through February 19th session of UT Quest at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. www.utquest.org. She is being asked to share her knowledge as a medical device expert and patient advocate on the inner workings of the medical device industry and the FDA and the failures that are leaving thousands of innocent patients injured.

"We are at a critical juncture of patient safety in a standoff with the muscle of industry marketing. I'm committed to making sure that the patient's voice is not lost in this struggle," Keeton says.

http://www.truthinmedicine.us.com/devicesafetymdufaiii.html

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