THE SOCIAL WORK STAFF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE INVITES ALL HSS STAFF TO A PRESENTATION IN HONOR OF NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH
* SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMS *

Identifying and Intervening with Patients with Substance Use Disorders

Presented by: Nicholas Lessa, LCSW-R, MA, CASAC

DATE: Tuesday, March 23, 2010
TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 AM
PLACE: 535 East 70th Street, 2nd floor
Richard L. Menschel Education Center
RSVP BY: Wednesday, March 10, 2010
Jillian Rose at (212) 606-1952 (rosej@hss.edu) or Meredith Wolrich at (212) 774-7378 (wolrichm@hss.edu)

Hospital patients may often have substance use issues that are crucial, yet challenging to identify and address for a number of reasons. This presentation will explain how to identify hospital patients with substance use disorders and use brief interventions to effectively guide them towards treatment. Participants will learn to: 1) Identify a substance use disorder during a brief intervention; 2) Assess readiness for change; and 3) Motivate patients to pursue next steps.

Nicholas Lessa is currently the Chief Executive Officer and partner of Inter-Care, Ltd., an outpatient substance abuse treatment agency in midtown Manhattan. He is a licensed clinical social worker; a master's level psychologist; and a credentialed alcohol and substance abuse counselor. He provides numerous lectures around New York City on topics pertaining to the treatment of substance use disorders. Mr. Lessa is an Associate Adjunct Professor at the Silver School of Social Work at New York University and is also in private practice. He is the lead author of two books entitled, Concise Guides to Mental Health: Substance Use Disorders and his recent release, Living with Alcoholism and Drug Addiction.

The Social Work Staff Development Committee’s mission is to support and stimulate the professional growth and development of Social Workers at Hospital for Special Surgery. Through the organization and implementation of learning and training initiatives, we aim to enhance the ways in which we support each other, empower our patients, and promote collaboration amongst our colleagues. Through our actions, we seek to educate the HSS community about our professional roles and to inform others about the broad scope of our knowledge base, skills, and services.