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## **NYC MULTI-CULTURAL PHYSICIAN-LED NETWORK ANNOUNCES HEALTH MISSION TO CHINA**

*In efforts to Improve Care and Share Best Practices, 45 NYC Doctors to Visit Hospitals in Beijing and Western Rural Cities to Exchange Ideas and Understand How Chinese Culture Influences Immigrant Attitudes Toward Health Care in New York City*

**New York, NY** – SOMOS - a non-profit, physician-led network of over 2,500 health care providers primarily serving immigrant communities in New York City – today announced that a delegation of 45 of the network’s doctors will travel to China to engage with local medical professionals and exchange ideas about the provision of primary and tertiary care. The visit to China will also help SOMOS doctors - who serve thousands of Chinese immigrant patients in New York City - understand how Chinese culture impacts the views, attitudes, and lifestyles of the immigrant communities they serve in New York City. From August 10<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>, the delegation of physicians and SOMOS leadership will visit Beijing and remote western parts of the region in China.

Dr. Ramon Tallaj, Chairman of SOMOS, Dr. Henry Chen, President of SOMOS, and Dr. David Zhang, Chief Medical Officer of the Eastern Chinese American Physician IPA, will participate in a series of programs, including a Chinese-U.S. Community Healthcare Forum at the Chinese Medical Doctors Association (CDMA) headquarter in Fengtai, Beijing, China. Participants in the healthcare forum will also include experts from the CDMA, representatives from the Norman Bethune University of Medical Science-Beijing Alumni Association, and doctors from the Xuanwu Hospital – a 1,159-bed hospital in Beijing.

“Cultural understanding is at the core of delivering the best health care to our patients,” said **Dr. Henry Chen, President of SOMOS**. “I’m excited to share the culture and traditions of China with so many of my esteemed colleagues and look forward to discussing how physicians across the world can keep communities healthier. I want to thank all of our partners who made this trip possible, and the physicians who are going above and beyond in their dedication to serving New York’s immigrant communities.”

“Chinese immigrant families are an integral part of the communities we serve across New York City, and we are committed to providing them with the best, culturally competent care possible,” said **Dr. Ramon Tallaj, SOMOS Chairman**. “Through our partnership with the

state, we have started to crack the code on how to provide better, affordable care by keeping patients healthy and engaged through primary care, and we hope to share our tried and tested best practices in China. Our doctors are all looking forward to this historic trip for our network, and I'm excited to explore future partnership opportunities."

The delegation of SOMOS doctors will visit a 1,159-bed hospital in Beijing to learn how physicians manage patients with emergency and non-emergency medical needs. The doctors will get a first-hand look at how doctors in China manage primary and tertiary care issues and uncover areas where the best practices that have led to SOMOS success with New York State's Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program (DSRIP) can help Chinese doctors better manage population health needs.

**Dr. David Zhang, Chief Medical Officer of the Eastern Chinese American Physician IPA, and a native of Xining, Qinghai, located in the Tibetan Plateau, said:** "This trip will allow us to understand the uniqueness in patient care in both large and rural cities in China. We will have close dialogues with national and local healthcare leaders and doctors who are involved in day-to-day patient care. Through this interaction, we hope to identify the areas that SOMOS doctors and doctors in China can work together in the future to improve patient care in underserved areas in both the USA and China."

Over the years, SOMOS has frequently responded to medical emergencies at home and abroad. Last year, SOMOS representatives teamed up with local partners to deliver hundreds of medical supplies to one of the towns in Puerto Rico hit hardest by Hurricane Maria. Early this year, the group volunteered to send 200 doctors to treat immigrants detained at the United States-Mexico border.

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**About SOMOS:**

SOMOS is a non-profit, physician-led network of over 2,500 health care providers serving over 700,000 Medicaid beneficiaries in New York City. Launched in 2015 by its Chairman Dr. Ramon Tallaj, SOMOS is the largest and only physician-led performance provider system participating in the New York State Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program (DSRIP). The SOMOS network includes providers delivering culturally competent care to patients in some of New York City's most vulnerable populations, particularly Latino, Asian, African-American and immigrant communities throughout the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens.