



**American Hospital
Association**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Elizabeth Lietz, (202) 626-2284
Carly Moore, (202) 638-5487

**THOMAS S. NESBITT, M.D., RECEIVES
JUSTIN FORD KIMBALL INNOVATORS AWARD**

WASHINGTON (April 12, 2012) – The American Hospital Association (AHA) today presented the Justin Ford Kimball Innovators Award to Thomas S. Nesbitt, M.D., Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Technologies and Alliances, and director, Center for Health and Technology, University of California (UC) Davis Health System in Sacramento, Calif. The award recognizes people and organizations that have made outstanding contributions in health care delivery and financing.

“Dr. Nesbitt has been instrumental in advancing telemedicine in California and across the nation,” said AHA President and CEO Rich Umbdenstock. “A physician leader and innovator, Dr. Nesbitt has provided visionary leadership by greatly extending the reach and capabilities our field through telehealth, public health and disaster planning.”

Recognized by the American Telemedicine Association with the 2010 President’s Individual Award, Nesbitt stands out as a champion of promoting and advocating for telemedicine and telehealth. By spreading and establishing telemedicine, underserved populations and rural and remote areas have greater access to medical services.

-more-

Innovators Award/Page 2

Nesbitt served on the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and the Joint Advisory Committee on Communications Capabilities of Emergency Medical and Public Health Care Facilities, reporting to the U.S. Congress 9/11 Commission. Nesbitt also worked to establish the Rural-PRograms in Medical Education (PRIME) program to train physicians in small, underserved communities. He advocated for funding to expand the state's medical education and telemedicine capabilities, most notably in a successful 2006 ballot measure.

Nesbitt earned his medical degree from UC Davis and was a resident in the Spokane Family Medicine Residency Program, an affiliate of the University of Washington's School of Medicine. Additionally, he has a master's degree in public health from the University of Washington in Seattle.

###

About the AHA

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the health improvement of their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which includes close to 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks, other providers of care and 42,000 individual members. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information, visit the AHA Web site at www.aha.org.