

# NHIA's Board and FIAC Meet Once Again to Collaboratively Chart Association Success

By Nancy Kramer, R.N., B.S.N., CRNI®

During the 2009 NHIA Annual Conference, the third strategic face-to-face meeting of NHIA's Board of Directors and Future of Infusion Advisory Council (FIAC) was held, further strengthening the vision and focus of the association around a whole host of critical areas. At this leadership gathering, particular emphasis was placed on the growing need for data to serve the many NHIA constituencies. A critical step in fulfilling this necessity will involve NHIA leading a major new data initiative that captures information from the following key areas:

- Marketplace and demographics information
- Clinical outcomes
- Operational benchmarking
- Data needed to effectively convey the home infusion story on Capitol Hill

While there have been some historical attempts between NHIA staff and dedicated volunteers to develop this type of data, success has remained elusive. Yet despite the daunting nature of this task, the opportunity for now achieving our data goals has never been better.

Driving this mounting optimism is the excellent partnership that has transpired between the members of the NHIA Board of Directors (representing the infusion provider community) and the FIAC members (representing the manufacturers, suppliers, and group purchasing organizations that serve the field). Having the commitment and guidance of the eight leading-edge companies on the FIAC is invaluable to this emerging initiative—and to the strategic success of NHIA overall.

### NHIA Future of Infusion Advisory Council

**Baxter Healthcare Corporation**  
**B. Braun Medical, Inc.**  
**Cubist Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**  
**Hospira Worldwide, Inc.**  
**Innovatix, LLC**  
**Managed Health Care Associates, Inc.**  
**Moog Medical Devices Group**  
**Smiths Medical**

As you read this, the new data initiative is beginning to take shape—and meetings are being planned between members of the NHIA Board and FIAC to define the scope and work program that will move the project forward. Once goals are established, NHIA members will be invited to participate in the various task groups being created, contributing their wealth of experience and expertise to this important endeavor. Please consider your own contribution as we forge ahead—be it actively planning and organizing the initiative, or participating in data collection activities—every member will be critical to the future success of this far-reaching initiative! ■

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Members of NHIA's Board of Directors and Future of Infusion Advisory Council preview an NHIA video dramatizing the stories of patients suffering due to the lack of Medicare coverage. The two groups met at the 2009 NHIA Annual Conference & Exposition in Baltimore this March to strategize around a variety of vital industry and association matters.