



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Katherine Conrad (415) 288-8411

Robert Robbins, M.D., named President-Elect of American Heart Association Western States Affiliate Board

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., October 5, 2011 — Robert C. Robbins, M.D., chairman of the department of cardiothoracic surgery at the Stanford University School of Medicine and director of the Stanford Cardiovascular Institute, has been named president-elect of the Board of Directors for the American Heart Association Western States Affiliate. The affiliate serves the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

“My history with the American Heart Association can be traced back many years and I am thrilled to be so engaged with the nation’s leading volunteer health organization, dedicated to fighting the no. 1 and no. 3 killers of Americans, cardiovascular diseases and stroke,” Dr. Robbins said. “The American Heart Association is second only to the federal government in terms of funding heart disease and stroke research; countless lives are saved every day because of their work.”

Dr. Robbins has been a member of the Stanford faculty since 1993. Prior to that, he was a Pediatric Fellow of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Emory University, and Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne, Australia. He is a former guest editor for the Surgical Supplement of Circulation and served as a manuscript reviewer for a number of periodicals, including the New England Journal of Medicine and the Annals of Thoracic Surgery. He has been involved with the American Heart Association on many levels over the years—most recently as Secretary of the 2010-2011 Western States Affiliate Board.

Now as President-Elect of the Affiliate Board, Dr. Robbins will help steer the regional activities of the nonprofit organization combating heart diseases and stroke.

“One of our top priorities is the American Heart Association’s recently set impact goal: By 2020, improve the cardiovascular health of all Americans by 20 percent while reducing deaths from

cardiovascular diseases and stroke by 20 percent,” Dr. Robbins said. “You would be hard pressed to meet someone who has not been affected by heart disease or stroke—either directly or through a loved one. As we strive toward our 2020 goal, it is wonderful to think about all of the people who will be positively affected by this great work.”

The American Heart Association’s newly elected Western States Affiliate Board convened yesterday for the first time this fiscal year in Phoenix, AZ.

Other 2011-12 Western States Affiliate board officers are: Mary Caldwell, R.N., Ph.D., of Healdsburg, board chairman; Richard J. Gray, M.D., of Carmel Valley, medical director, Tyler Heart Institute, Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, board president; Janice Murphy, vice president of finance at Kaiser Permanente, board chairman-elect; and, Graham Nichol, M. D., Medic One Foundation chair in pre-hospital emergency care and medical director, University of Washington-Harborview, secretary.

About Dr. Robbins:

Dr. Robbins holds a B.S. degree from Millsaps College and a M.D. degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He completed his residency in Cardiothoracic Surgery at Stanford.

He also served on the editorial board for the Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery and American Board of Thoracic surgery.

About the American Heart Association:

Founded in 1924, the American Heart Association today is the nation’s oldest and largest voluntary health organization dedicated to building healthier lives, free of heart disease and stroke. These diseases, America’s No. 1 and No. 3 killers, and all other cardiovascular diseases claim nearly 950,000 lives a year. In fiscal year 2008–09 the association invested \$525 million in research, professional and public education, advocacy and community service programs to help all Americans live longer, healthier lives. To learn more, call 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit www.heart.org.

###