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1993.12.14 : Appointment of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health

CONTACT: Bill Grigg, PHS

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(202) 690-6867

HHS Assistant Secretary for Health Philip R. Lee, M.D., announced today that Susan J. Blumenthal, M.D., M.P.A, a national expert in women's health, will become deputy assistant secretary for women's health, a new post in the U.S. Public Health Service.

Lee, who administers the PHS, said, "Dr. Blumenthal is an outstanding physician, a leader in women's health issues who has been recognized with several of the highest PHS medals and awards in 1989, 1990 and 1992 for her distinguished national leadership, dedicated public and health care professional activities, and her scientific excellence. HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala and I are creating a major position to demonstrate the administration's will to advance the health of women through research, education and service."

She will supervise the PHS Office of Women's Health and coordinate PHS-wide policies to ensure that women's health needs are fully met.

Dr. Blumenthal currently is chief of the behavioral medicine and basic prevention research branch at the National Institute of Mental Health where she directs a multimillion dollar research program at the National Institutes of Health. She chairs the NIH health and behavior coordinating committee that oversees behavioral and social science research at NIH.

She is also clinical professor of psychiatry at Georgetown University School of Medicine, a co-founder and scientific director of the Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research and a member of the board of directors of the National

Women's Health Resource Center.

She is a captain in the U.S. Public Health Service's commissioned corps and, as such, is being reassigned to the new post, effective at the beginning of the new year. She will work with Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, M.D., who has been given special responsibilities for oversight of several PHS offices as well as the commissioned corps.

Dr. Blumenthal serves on the workgroups on mental health and academic health centers of the President's Task Force on Health Care Reform, the President's Interagency Committee on Physical Fitness, and PHS and NIH coordinating committees on violence, chronic fatigue syndrome, diabetes, digestive diseases, transplantation and sleep research.

She is the author of *Suicide over the Life Cycle*. She has written a mental health column for *First and Woman* magazines and serves of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Women's Health and Depression*.