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Contact: Matt Yeingst, Senior Regional Director
myeingst@ccfa.org; 972-386-0607

**GARY MORCHOWER, MD TO BE NAMED LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
RECEPIANT AT THE CROHN'S & COLITIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA'S NORTH TEXAS
CHAPTER DINNER**

DALLAS, TX. October 15, 2014— The North Texas Chapter of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) will host its third annual fundraising dinner on **Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at the Belo Mansion in Dallas**, featuring special guest Ivan “Pudge” Rodriguez, Texas Rangers’ Hall of Famer and 14-time All Star standout catcher. Evan Grant with The Dallas Morning News will join “Pudge” Rodriguez on stage to lead a personal discussion with the baseball Hall of Famer, who earned an all-time record 13 Rawlings Gold Gloves for his defensive work behind the plate, including 10 in a row from 1992-2001 while throwing out nearly 42% of runners attempting to steal in his career.

Known collectively as inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD), Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis affects 1 in 200 people. They are painful, medically incurable diseases that attack the digestive system. Many patients require numerous hospitalizations and surgery. Most people diagnosed with an IBD begin to develop symptoms between the ages of 15 and 35; however the incidence is rapidly increasing in children.

This year, CCFA North Texas will present Gary Morchower, M.D. with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering work in starting the CCFA North Texas Chapter more than thirty years ago. Dr. Morchower has continued to be a strong leader in the Dallas medical community, as the founding pediatric gastroenterologist in Dallas as well as a highly acclaimed, caring general pediatrician.

A Dallas native, Gary Morchower received his undergraduate degree from Tulane University and his M.D. from Tulane Medical School. He went on to complete a rotating internship at Cincinnati General Hospital followed by a pediatric residency at Charity Hospital in New Orleans where he was named Chief Resident during his last year there.

After residency, Dr. Morchower served as Captain in the US Army Medical Corps. While stationed in the Panama Canal Zone, he served as Head of the Department of Pediatrics at Gorgas Hospital where he first took an active interest in GI diseases. After the military, Dr. Morchower completed a two-year pediatric GI fellowship at Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia under the late Dr. Giulio Barbero.

“We did not have the diagnostic instruments and treatment medicines that doctors have today, and we would spend literally hours talking to patients and families, trying to find out more about trigger points that precipitated their disease flare ups,” says Dr. Morchower. “Amazingly enough, we achieved a great deal of success using this approach and combining it with the appropriate use of medicines.”

Dr. Morchower entered private practice in 1970, joining Drs. Joel Steinberg and Ben Dildy in Richardson. Two years later, he started the first pediatric GI clinic in Dallas at Children’s Medical Center. In 1980, Dr. Morchower founded the North Texas Chapter of the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation of America.

“It was important to have a Dallas presence of the Foundation (CCFA) to support the many families with inflammatory bowel disease that I was taking care of,” says Dr. Morchower. During those early years, he also served as Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee for CCFA.

Dr. Morchower understood the importance of CCFA’s mission to improve the quality of life for children affected by these chronic, debilitating diseases. The North Texas Chapter is grateful for Dr. Gary Morchower’s devoted efforts to the pediatric medical community and groundbreaking medical care in pediatric gastroenterology in Dallas.

Funds raised from the third annual dinner will support CCFA’s mission-critical research, education, and support programs. To learn more about the event and purchase tickets, visit <http://online.ccfa.org/thirdannualdinner> or call 972-386-0607.

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About Crohn's Disease & Ulcerative Colitis

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are painful, medically incurable illnesses that attack the digestive system. Crohn's disease may attack anywhere from the mouth to the anus, while ulcerative colitis inflames only the large intestine (colon). Symptoms may include abdominal pain, persistent diarrhea, rectal bleeding, fever and weight loss. Many patients require hospitalization and surgery. These illnesses can cause severe complications, including colon cancer in patients with long-term disease. Some 1.4 million Americans suffer from Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, collectively known as Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IBD) and as many as 150,000 of those are children. Most people develop the diseases between the ages of 15 and 35.

About the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) is the largest voluntary non-profit health organization dedicated to finding cures for Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IBD). CCFA’s mission is to cure Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and to improve the quality of life of children and adults who suffer from these diseases. The Foundation works to fulfill its mission by funding research, providing educational resources for patients and their families, medical professionals, and the public, and furnishing supportive services for those afflicted with IBD. For more information, visit www.ccfa.org, call 888-694-8872, join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ccfafb and www.facebook.com/ccfatakesteps, or follow CCFA and Take Steps on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ccfa and www.twitter.com/takesteps.

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