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Contact: Carol Galbreath
(404) 965-7595
cgalbrea@arthritis.org

**ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES WINNER OF
NATIONAL JOURNALISM COMPETITION**
*Kathleen Facklemann of USA TODAY Recognized for Raising Awareness of
Nation's Leading Cause of Disability*

ATLANTA (November 27, 2006) – The Arthritis Foundation presented the Russell L. Cecil Journalism Award to Kathleen Facklemann of *USA TODAY* at the foundation's national meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo., on November 17, 2006. Established in 1956, the award encourages and recognizes outstanding news coverage about arthritis and the Arthritis Foundation.

Facklemann has brought the topic of arthritis to millions of Americans through her health stories in *USA TODAY*. She has written about the role exercise plays in managing and preventing arthritis and covered such important issues as Medicaid and funding obstacles for arthritis patients. Earlier this year, Facklemann was instrumental in bringing to fruition a four-part series on arthritis highlighting various topics such as exercise, aging, joint replacement and the promise of research.

“Kathleen Facklemann has demonstrated the essential role media play in providing greater awareness and understanding about the seriousness of arthritis – the nation's leading cause of disability,” said John H. Klippel, president and CEO, Arthritis Foundation. “We thank and honor Kathleen for reporting timely and accurate information and calling attention to how arthritis profoundly impacts quality of life. Our goal is to one day honor journalists who will write about prevention and cure of this painful disease.”

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A health reporter for *USA TODAY* since 1998, Fackelmann is responsible for daily news stories on a variety of medical topics from heart disease to arthritis. For the last two years, she has focused on neuroscience and the science of aging. In that capacity, she has produced many features on how people can live longer by adopting healthy habits like a daily exercise routine.

The stories Fackelmann writes for *USA TODAY* require an understanding of the details of scientific studies and an ability to put jargon into everyday language. Her educational background helps tremendously: she followed a pre-med course of studies at Case Western Reserve University, where she graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in chemistry. She also has a Masters of Science degree in journalism from Boston University. Prior to joining *USA TODAY*, Fackelmann worked for 10 years as the biomedical reporter for *Science News*, a weekly news magazine where she covered nearly every major health topic from AIDS to gene therapy.

The award is named for the late Russell L. Cecil, a rheumatology pioneer and leader in arthritis awareness and education through his textbooks, brochures and speeches. *The Cecil Textbook of Medicine* has been one of the world's most trusted medical references since its original publication in 1927.

The Arthritis Foundation is the only nationwide, nonprofit health organization helping people take greater control of arthritis by leading efforts to prevent, control and cure arthritis and related diseases -- the nation's number one cause of disability. For free arthritis information, contact the Arthritis Foundation at 800-568-4045 or on the Web at www.arthritis.org.

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