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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Distinguished Physician and Holocaust Scholar
Professor Aleksander Skotnicki, MD
to present
Inaugural Lecture in St. Louis
on April 18, 2017**

“Building Bridges: Polish-Jewish Perspectives” will be the topic of the inaugural Visiting Professor Lecture by Professor Aleksander Skotnicki, M.D., a Holocaust historian, scholar, author and head of the Department of Hematology at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland. Dr. Skotnicki comes to St. Louis on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 to attend the Saint Louis Polonia Dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel, beginning at 6:00 pm.

The dinner will also kick-off the Advanced Revascularization Chapter X (ARCH) Medical Education Symposium April 19-22, a pre-course focused on updates in primary care and four-day conference focused on advances in cardiology of more than 400 physicians from across the country. Dr. Skotnicki, along with colleagues from Jagiellonian University, are part of Washington University School of Medicine’s medical education initiative.

In addition to his distinguished career in medicine, Dr. Skotnicki has spent a significant part of his life working to bridge the understanding between people of different nations, religions, occupations and generations. He has focused his attention on the period surrounding World War II, with particular emphasis on those who lived through the Holocaust. He has collected and shared the stories of many Jewish survivors and organized various photographic exhibits in Krakow at the Kupa Synagogue, the High Synagogue, the Palace of Art and the International Cultural Center.

Dr. Skotnicki's tireless efforts in this regard have won him admiration in Poland, Israel and abroad, culminating in his receipt of the Spirit of Jan Karski Award in 2009.

Ninety percent of Poland's prewar Jewish population of 3.3 million Jews was murdered during the Holocaust, and the world they created in Poland disappeared with them. In Kraków alone, every fourth resident perished during the German occupation. Throughout his many publications, including his most recent book, *Oskar Schindler in the Eyes of Cracovian Jews Rescued by Him*, Dr. Skotnicki has sought to understand how a community could rebuild in light of a shared tragic history. His presentation will feature photographic slides of Jewish families in Kraków and detail their tragic experience during the war. He will tell the story of Oskar Schindler and other citizens who, through great personal risk, protected and rescued Jews during the German occupation in Poland.

Dr. Skotnicki's visit coincides with the week of *Yom HaShoah* and Holocaust Remembrance Day, commemorating the April 19 anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Co-chairs for the dinner are Lila Solnica-Krezel, PhD and Cathy Rothstein. This Distinguished Professor Lecture is a series of endowed lectures on wide variety of topics related to the mission of Saint Louis Polonia.

Saint Louis Polonia, Inc. is a Missouri non-profit organization, whose purpose is to promote knowledge about the one-thousand-year-long history of Poland, the country's contributions to the world and its ethnic diversity. Through educational, cultural and charitable initiatives, Saint Louis Polonia strives to enrich the life of St. Louis communities and foster good will among people of different ethnic backgrounds in this city which was built and shaped by immigrants from many countries, including Poland.

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