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## ***LeVar Burton to Headline AIDS Research Alliance Benefit And Serve as Spokesperson for the Search for an HIV Cure***

LOS ANGELES, July 18, 2011 – AIDS Research Alliance today announced that actor/activist LeVar Burton will serve as its spokesperson and headline its October 13 annual benefit, *Art Deco & Jazz*, at downtown's fabled Cicada Restaurant.

"AIDS Research Alliance is honored by LeVar Burton's support and involvement in our organization," said Carolyn Carlburg, CEO of ARA. "We could not ask for a more knowledgeable and passionate advocate for our cause."

AIDS Research Alliance (ARA), the nation's only independent, nonprofit AIDS/HIV medical research institute, has been testing potential vaccines and cures since 1989, when it was founded by a group of unaffiliated volunteer doctors. ARA holds a National Institutes of Health license to develop Prostratin, a potential drug aimed at eradicating latent reservoirs of the HIV virus.

"I'm looking forward to spreading the word about Prostratin and the importance of raising money to support research on this promising drug at the AIDS Research Alliance," noted Burton. "ARA needs to grow and expand research on a cure for AIDS and get FDA permission to test Prostratin on patients."

Burton will join ARA supporters enjoying the sounds of Grammy-nominated vocalist Monica Mancini, daughter of Henry Mancini, at the Thursday, October 13, gala. *Art Deco & Jazz*, at Cicada in the landmark 1928 Oviatt Building in downtown Los Angeles, will honor the pioneering work of the three leading HIV physicians.

The physicians being honored include: Michael Gottlieb MD, a physician widely credited with reporting the first cases of AIDS in 1981; Wilbert Jordan MD, founder and director of OASIS Clinic in 1985, still the only AIDS medical service organization in South Los Angeles; and Robert Winters MD, Associate Medical Director of ARA and one of its longest-serving medical professionals.

Corporate and individual sponsorship information and tickets to *Art Deco & Jazz* are available by contacting Angie Comer, at ARA, 310.228.2040; [acomer@aidsresearch.org](mailto:acomer@aidsresearch.org).

*LeVar Burton is an Emmy Award-winning actor, producer, and HIV/AIDS activist, whose career has spanned decades, not only as a performer, but as a producer and director. He served as host and executive producer of Reading Rainbow, the popular children's television program that ran for more than 25 seasons; directed and produced several segments of the Star Trek franchise; and directed the Emmy-nominated Tiger Woods Story for Showtime.*

*AIDS Research Alliance is the U.S.'s only nonprofit, independent medical research institute dedicated to finding a cure for AIDS. Working in partnership with government agencies, universities, and the private sector since 1989, ARA's research physicians helped test more than half the anti-retroviral drugs used to control HIV among the world's 33.4 million infected people. ARA, 1400 South Grand Ave., Suite 701, Los Angeles, CA 90015; [www.aidsresearch.org](http://www.aidsresearch.org).*

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