

THE CLEVELAND CLINIC FOUNDATION

Public & Media Relations
9500 Euclid Avenue / W14
Cleveland OH 44195
216/444-0141 fax 216/445-3040



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CONTACT: Angela Calman, 216/445-1546
Caroline Nicolay, 216/444-0142

CLEVELAND CLINIC HOSTS NATIONAL MEDIA PANEL DISCUSSION OCT. 5 IN ANTICIPATION OF VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

Panelists include: CNN's Bill Hemmer, MSNBC's Rick Kaplan, The Washington Post's Ceci Connolly, FOX News Channel's Jim Angle, People Magazine's Sandra Sobieraj Westfall, and National Journal's 'The Hotline' Vaughn Ververs

The Cleveland Clinic will host a panel discussion, **“Planes, Trains and Automobiles: On the Road with a Presidential Campaign,”** featuring national journalists at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5.

The panel discussion, which is free and open to the public, will be held at the InterContinental Hotel & Conference Center Cleveland, 9801 Carnegie Ave., on The Cleveland Clinic campus. Students are strongly encouraged to attend. **(Members of the media also are invited to attend. To register, please contact the media relations' representative listed above.)**

All of the panelists are nationally known journalists and media personalities who will provide colorful insight into the backstage drama of a presidential campaign including, but not limited to, the presidential and vice presidential debates.

Vaughn Ververs, editor of the popular political trade publication *The Hotline*, will moderate the event. Prior to joining *The Hotline*, Ververs served as an associate producer for FOX News Sunday. His career in politics began as a newsroom researcher/field producer with FOX News Channel and an associate producer with CBS's Election Unit.

PANELISTS:

Rick Kaplan is the president of MSNBC and a veteran journalist of more than 30 years. Kaplan also served as president of CNN-US, but is best known for his groundbreaking work at ABC News—most recently as senior vice president of news where he designed the election coverage for the 2004 campaign. Kaplan held a variety of high-level positions at ABC, including executive producer of “World News Tonight.” He also was creator of ABC's newsmagazine “Primetime Live” and served as executive producer of “Nightline,” “World News This Morning,” and “Good Morning America.”

Bill Hemmer is the anchor of “American Morning,” CNN's flagship morning news program. Hemmer has covered several political campaigns, stories of international import and provided CNN viewers with years of compelling reports from as far away as Kuwait and Afghanistan. In 2000, Hemmer played an integral role in the network's coverage of the presidential campaign—gaining exclusive interviews with Democratic and Republican leaders and breaking some of the biggest developments during the long and protracted Florida ballot saga.

Ceci Connolly is a national staff writer for The Washington Post. During the 2000 presidential campaign, Connolly spent 18 months on the road as the newspaper's lead reporter covering Vice President Al Gore. She reported on the debates, the selection of Gore's running mate Joseph Lieberman, the Democratic National Convention and the historic Florida recount. In 1996 Connolly was assigned to the Bob Dole presidential campaign, traveling to more than 30 states with the GOP nominee while serving as a Washington correspondent for the St. Petersburg (Florida) Times. Connolly is a frequent contributor to the Washington Week and FOX News Sunday television programs, and she has provided expert commentary during this year's political conventions.

Jim Angle is the senior White House correspondent for FOX News Channel and is one of the most respected journalists in Washington. He has covered the Clinton and Bush presidencies as well as several campaigns, including the hour-by-hour electoral drama in Florida during the 2000 campaign. Prior to his tenure at FOX, Angle had a prestigious career covering politics for ABC News, CNN and National Public Radio. He is known for his keen observations of the humor in politics and Washington.

Sandra Sobieraj Westfall is the Washington bureau chief of People magazine. She was the White House reporter for The Associated Press for six years. She spent 17 months traveling with Vice President Al Gore's 2000 campaign for which she received the 2001 White House Correspondents Association Award for her behind-the-scenes election night reporting. Sobieraj also covered the 1996 presidential campaign—traveling with Phil Gramm, Steve Forbes, Pat Buchanan and eventually Bob Dole as he became the GOP nominee.

The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, located in Cleveland, Ohio, is a not-for-profit multispecialty academic medical center that integrates clinical and hospital care with research and education. The Cleveland Clinic was founded in 1921 by four renowned physicians with a vision of providing outstanding patient care based upon the principles of cooperation, compassion and innovation. *U.S. News & World Report* consistently names The Cleveland Clinic as one of the nation's best hospitals in its annual "America's Best Hospitals" survey. Approximately 1,200 full-time salaried physicians at The Cleveland Clinic and Cleveland Clinic Florida represent more than 100 medical specialties and subspecialties. In 2003, patients came for treatment from every state and nearly 90 countries. The Cleveland Clinic website address is www.clevelandclinic.org.

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