



## Sharyl Attkisson to Anchor "Healthweek" on PBS

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WASHINGTON -- CBS News correspondent Sharyl Attkisson will anchor "HealthWeek," premiering on PBS in May, it was announced today at a meeting of PBS programmers here.

"HealthWeek," a production of The Washington Post Company in association with Maryland Public Television, will be a half-hour weekly news magazine featuring the week's top news in health, medicine and related environmental issues. The program will also feature in-depth reports on advances in medical research, treatment of various diseases and disorders, profiles of people in the health care industry, and information to enable viewers to be more sophisticated health care consumers.

The weekly series is being underwritten nationally by the Heinz Family Philanthropies.

Attkisson, who is based in the CBS News Washington Bureau, will continue with CBS in addition to serving as host of "Healthweek." She is a substitute anchor for the CBS Weekend News and from September 1993 to January 1995 was co-anchor of the CBS News overnight broadcast "Up To The Minute."

Attkisson has co-anchored CBS News' live coverage of major international events, including the signing of the Middle East peace agreement and the election of Nelson Mandela as president of South Africa. In 1993 she anchored CBS News' special week-long coverage of the space shuttle mission to repair the Hubble Telescope, including a 6.5-hour live broadcast the night of the mission's first spacewalk.

Before joining CBS News in 1993, Attkisson was an anchor with CNN beginning in 1990. She was a primary anchor for such stories as the Persian Gulf War, the Los Angeles riots, the California earthquake, Hurricane Andrew, and the storming of the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas. Her live interviews on CNN included Vice President Al Gore, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, PLO Leader Yasser Arafat, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and former U. S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, among many others.

Attkisson's 1991 CNN health special, "The Gender Gap," explored the differences in men's and women's health issues and the historic inattention to women's health issues by the medical establishment. Other award-winning specials she reported and produced include "Coming of Age" (about geriatric issues) and "Temik" (a series on pesticides).

Attkisson joins a veteran team of "HealthWeek" producers and correspondents:

-- Dr. Robert Davis, executive producer of "HealthWeek," has served as producer of CNN Medical News and as a correspondent for Whittle Communications' Medical News Network. Most recently, he was executive editor of Time Life Medical, where he helped create a series of 30 half-hour programs, hosted by former U. S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, on various medical conditions. In addition to his work as a journalist, Dr. Davis has been a Pew Foundation Fellow at the Health Policy Institute of Brandeis University, where he earned his doctorate in health policy. Dr. Davis also holds a master's degree in public health from Emory University, as well as a bachelor's degree in politics from Princeton University.

-- Dr. Bruce Dan, resident physician on "HealthWeek," is an Emmy Award winner and director of medical affairs at the Center for Bio-Medical Communication at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. He is a former senior editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association. He also served as executive editor of Medical News Network and as medical editor for WLS-TV in Chicago. He has been the medical correspondent for the PBS science series "Newton's Apple" for the past ten years, and he is the author of more than 100 major scientific articles, textbooks, and encyclopedia chapters, including the chapter on Disease in the World Book Encyclopedia.

-- Dr. Barry Kaufman, a "HealthWeek" correspondent based in Chicago, was described by Newsweek magazine as "one of the best health reporters in the country." Winner of two Emmy Awards, among many others, he produces the American Medical Association's weekly JAMA Report. For 15 years he was the health correspondent for WMAQ-TV in Chicago, and his reports appeared on NBC stations nationwide.

-- Gary Schwitzer, senior correspondent for "HealthWeek," was CNN's medical correspondent from 1983 to 1990, following three years as an award-winning medical reporter for WFAA-TV in Dallas. Mr. Schwitzer is also a former assistant director of the American Heart Association.

-- Christyna Copeland, senior producer of "HealthWeek," is a former senior producer of "Nightly Business Report," the daily PBS financial news program produced by WPBT-TV in Miami. Ms. Copeland is also a former senior producer of the daily "North Carolina Now" news magazine program produced by UNC-TV in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. In the mid-1980s, she was a news and feature writer for CNN in Atlanta.

John Potthast, executive in charge of production for Maryland Public Television, is MPT's vice president for national and international programming. An Emmy Award winner, he has produced many of public television's most popular series, including "On Stage At Wolf Trap" and cooking programs featuring Julia Child and Pierre Franey.

Patrick Butler, executive in charge of production of "HealthWeek," is vice president of The Washington Post Company and served for six years as chairman of the Public Programs Committee of the National Endowment for the Humanities. During his tenure, NEH helped finance and develop such landmark PBS series as "The Civil War."

Bruce Christensen, former president of PBS, is consultant to The Washington Post Company on the production.

A "HealthWeek" Advisory Council, composed of leaders in various health fields, will be announced in March, as will details of a "HealthWeek"

community service program and an on-line reference service.

The Washington Post Company's previous network offerings include two documentaries produced in association with CBS News: "Watergate: The Secret Story" (1992) and "CBS Reports: The JFK Assassination" (1993). The Post Company also produced the PBS documentary "Secret Files: A History of American Diplomacy in the Middle East" in 1992.

Maryland Public Television, the fourth-largest producing center in the U. S. public television system, produces "Wall Street Week With Louis Rukeyser," "MotorWeek," "Baking with Julia" (hosted by Julia Child), the children's wildlife adventure series "Kratz's Creatures," and "Boatworks" (hosted by Robert Urich).

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