



For Immediate Release

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### **Isaac Hanson Promotes DVT Day in Oklahoma**

*Member of the Tulsa group "Hanson" joins state leaders and health officials to kick off Oklahoma's first DVT Day to promote blood clot awareness*

OKLAHOMA CITY – Isaac Hanson, the oldest brother of the Tulsa-based pop group, Hanson, will share his personal experience with DVT (Deep Vein Thrombosis) at a ceremony to designate June 4 as DVT Day in Oklahoma.

Hanson, 26, had surgery in October after he noticed sudden swelling and stiffness in one of his arms during a show in Dallas. Doctors found potentially fatal blood clots in his arm and lungs, and removed them.

"I'm lucky to be here," Hanson said. Now, Isaac Hanson wants to share his story as a warning to others to pay attention to symptoms of blood clots before they become fatal.

**What:** Oklahoma DVT Day news conference with Isaac Hanson

**When:** 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 4

**Where:** Oklahoma State Capitol, Blue Room, 1st floor  
NE 23<sup>rd</sup> and Lincoln Boulevard

Deep Vein Thrombosis is the abnormal clotting of the blood in one or more veins, most commonly the veins of the leg. It can turn fatal if the clot breaks free from its original site and travels through the heart and into the lungs. This results in a pulmonary embolism, which can lead to sudden death. The condition leading to DVT and pulmonary embolism known as Venous Thromboembolism is the third most common vascular disease after heart disease and stroke.

To increase awareness about blood clots, several state legislators co-authored a resolution making June 4 DVT Day in Oklahoma.

"The need for awareness of DVT is more important than ever. Each year, deaths from pulmonary embolism are five times more common than deaths from breast cancer, motor vehicle accidents and AIDS combined. With timely recognition and treatment,

these deaths can be prevented and the quality of life for many Americans improved,” said Dr. Suman Rathbun, a researcher at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine at the OU Health Sciences Center and chairman of the education committee for the Venous Disease Coalition, a non-profit organization committed to promoting public awareness of DVT.

As part of this awareness effort statewide, the Venous Disease Coalition in partnership with the Oklahoma Hospital Association will be providing education materials free of charge to physicians and patients at 120 acute care hospitals in Oklahoma during June. In addition, material for patients will be made available through state and county health departments, and the state Medical Association is publishing an article in June aimed at educating physicians on the prevention and treatment of DVT and pulmonary embolism.

Along with Hanson and Dr. Rathbun, others participating in the DVT Day news conference include state legislators; Dr. Michael Crutcher, state Health Commissioner; Dr. William H. Oehlert, president, state Medical Association; Dale Bratzler, Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality; and Gary Raskob, dean of the OU College of Public Health.

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