**Dana Whalen**

An award-winning broadcast journalist will providing media training and public relations services to the Society for Pediatric Urgent Care at its upcoming September convention. Dana Whalen most recently was News Director of 50,000-watt WTIC-AM in Hartford, Connecticut, the only remaining 24/7 radio news operation in the state. Previously she was Managing Editor at WTNH-TV in New Haven and Assignment Manager at WTIC-TV in Hartford.

Whalen, who earned B.S.J and M.S.J. degrees from Northwestern University, has also been a reporter, talk show host and newspaper copy editor, and posted hundreds of stories to the award-winning CBS Connecticut website. She has served as a guest instructor at a number of Connecticut Colleges and Universities and has conducted media training sessions for a variety of groups and organizations, including the Red Cross, the American Cancer Society, the Connecticut State Labor Council and the Women's Campaign School at Yale University. She helped organize and conduct station events for community service operations, teaching them how to work with the news media.

Whalen has received both individual and group awards for outstanding service in the news industry. She was a 2015 recipient of the Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information "Champion of Open Government" award and was named one of 140 top women in Hartford history for the Hartford Region YWCA's 140th anniversary. She has multiple awards from the Connecticut Associated Press Broadcasters, and her team won the Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio Television News Directors New England Region for the station's coverage of the Greenwood Nursing Home fire. Her in-prison interview with two convicted rapists won the Ohio State Award.

Whalen hopes to help SPUC members learn how to work with reporters and editors to provide health and safety information for their communities while protecting patient privacy. "Some people's idea of an encounter with the news media involves an 'ambush' by a camera crew from "60 Minutes." But in many stories, especially those for local newspapers and broadcast operations, the interchange with a reporter is more often a more collaborative effort, aimed at providing public information and education. I look forward to working with Dr.Tuddenham and the board to help SPUC members help their communities."