



For Immediate Release
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Vermont Medical Society Honors Outstanding Service to Health Care and Community

Montpelier, Vt. (November 18, 2019) – The Vermont Medical Society (VMS) recognized seven Vermonters for their outstanding contributions to the health and well being of the State’s residents during its 206th annual meeting held November 2nd, in Stowe, Vt.

Hugh Hermann, M.D., of Woodstock, VT, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for providing six decades of active, solo, private practice with current, ongoing care that includes serving four generations in some of his patient families. His service has unselfishly included 24-hour availability, willingness to make house calls and willingness to share his home phone number with every patient. His number one priority has been that his patients receive the information and care that allows them to feel heard and respected. One of his patients says, “You won't find a better listener or a more compassionate and experienced doctor.”

Dr. Hermann graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1954 and specializes in family medicine. He also continues to teach and mentor students from the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth.

The Distinguished Service Award, the highest award VMS can bestow upon one of its members, is given on the basis of meritorious service in the science and art of medicine and for outstanding contributions to the medical profession, its organizations, and the welfare of the public.

Mario Capparuccini, M.D., of Middlebury, VT, was awarded the Physician of the Year Award for his unsurpassed dedication to his community and profession, which is indicated by patients asking for him by name, even in the Emergency Room. He has been practicing for 39 years and is described as practicing medicine at such a high level and with such professionalism that anyone who is remotely competitive strives to be as good.

Dr. Capparuccini practices at the Porter Medical Center in Middlebury, Vermont. He attended the Wilmington University Medical School in Wilmington, Delaware.

The Physician of the Year Award is granted annually to a physician licensed in the state of Vermont who has demonstrated: outstanding performance in the quality of care given to his/her patients; skillful and compassionate patient care; and dedication to the welfare of his patients in accordance with accepted principles of good medical practice.

Peter Gunther, M.D., of South Burlington, VT, and **Javad Mashkuri, M.D.**, of Middlesex, VT, both received the Physician Award for Community Services. Dr. Gunther, a general internist at the GoodHEALTH Internal Medicine Clinic, received the award for his exemplary work as a primary care physician. His depth of humanity is described as upholding the finest ideals of medical practice. Dr. Gunther is known as a uniquely generous individual, who serves those most in need in his community. Dr. Mashkuri, an emergency medicine physician at the Central Vermont Medical Center, received the award for his outstanding and innovative service to his patients and his community. He is described as single-handedly working to improve the health of all members of Washington County and the surrounding areas, changing the lives of people in his service area for the better. He is especially recognized for implementing innovative strategies to expand access to medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorders.

The Physician Award for Community Services is granted annually to physicians who have compiled an outstanding record of community service, which, apart from his or her specific identification as a physician, reflects well on the profession.

The Citizen of the Year Award was awarded to **Rob and Alyssa Black**, of Essex Junction, VT, for their dedication to suicide prevention in Vermont in honor of their son Andrew. In the wake of their own tragedy, the Blacks have both worked tirelessly to educate the public and lawmakers on the factors associated with suicide and evidence-based prevention measures. Through public outreach and legislative advocacy, they both have changed the way many in the state view suicide and have created an awareness among Vermonters to save lives. Their work is desperately needed and deeply appreciated in a state with a suicide rate that is rising faster than the national rate.

The Citizen of the Year Award is given to a non-physician resident of the state of Vermont who in the past and presently has made a significant contribution to the health of the people of Vermont.

William Pendlebury, M.D., received the VMS Founder's Award for leading the fight for the diagnosis and treatment of dementia in Vermont over the past thirty-five years. Over the last 20 years, Dr. Pendlebury has been instrumental in developing the Memory Program at UVMHC and provides compassionate care to a very challenging patient population. He is always striving to help patients and families understand their diagnosis and helping them to maintain optimism throughout the disease progression. He has been described as an ideal mentor and leader in the community by his colleagues and his patients. He is known for his gentle approach, treats everyone with dignity and respect and always has a joke to share.

Dr. Pendlebury is a Neurologist at University of Vermont Medical Center and a Professor of Pathology and Neurology at the Larner College of Medicine at University of Vermont Medical Center.

The Founders' Award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, vision, and achievement in improving the health of Vermonters and all Americans.

About the Vermont Medical Society: The Vermont Medical Society is the leading voice of physicians in the state and is dedicated to protecting the health of all Vermonters and improving the environment in which Vermont physicians and physician assistants practice medicine. The Society serves its 2,400 members through public policy advocacy on the state and federal levels, as well as by providing legal, administrative and educational support, producing a rich flow of news and information and offering member benefits that increase medical practice effectiveness and efficiency. For more information, visit www.VTMD.org.