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## **Vermont Medical Society Taps New Officers**

*Catherine Schneider, M.D., named president of state physician and physician assistant association*

**Montpelier, Vt.** (Nov. 18, 2019) – **Catherine Schneider, M.D.**, was named president of the Vermont Medical Society (VMS) during its 206<sup>th</sup> annual meeting November 2nd, in Stowe, Vt.

Dr. Schneider is the Section Chief of Surgical Services at Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center in Windsor, Vt., and currently chairs the Vermont Statewide Surgical Services Collaborative. She is board certified in general surgery and a certified physician wound care specialist. She is also the former chief medical officer of Mt. Ascutney Hospital, a position she held from 2011- 2014.

As president of VMS, Dr. Schneider will take a leading role in the Society's public policy efforts in Montpelier and Washington, D.C. Priorities during the upcoming year include advancing evidence-based public health strategies, reducing administrative burdens facing Vermont's physician and physician assistant practices and developing recruitment strategies to ensure a sustainable health care workforce in Vermont.

"It is an exciting time to be a physician in Vermont," said Dr. Schneider. "We have a unique perspective on the state's current health reform efforts and the sustainability of the health care system in Vermont, as we see it firsthand through the eyes of our patients. The consistency of the care we provide our patients is

integral to any reform effort and requires the clinician leadership of the state to join together to share strategies on how to shape a health care system that ultimately yields the highest benefit to our patients. VMS can be that collective voice in Vermont to advocate for what our patients and practices need to be healthy and successful.”

Dr. Schneider earned a bachelor’s degree in biology/premed from the University of Scranton, PA. and medical degree from New Jersey Medical School. She did her surgical residency at UMDNJ in New Jersey and fellowship in minimally invasive surgery at the Institute for Minimally Invasive Surgery in White Plains, N.Y. She earned a master’s degree in management, health care administration from New England College in 2006.

Also, during the meeting, VMS members elected **Simha Ravven, M.D., and Patricia Fisher, M.D.**, president-elect and vice president, respectively.

Dr. Ravven is the Senior Medical Director at the Brattleboro Retreat and Assistant Clinical Professor in Law and Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine.

Dr. Ravven was a studio art major as an undergraduate at Hamilton College and decided to pursue medicine after serving in the United States Peace Corps in Morocco. She graduated from the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, completed her psychiatric residency at Harvard Medical School. She went on to train in Forensic Psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Ravven is Board Certified in General Adult and Forensic Psychiatry. She has a private practice in forensic psychiatry and frequently lectures on clinical violence risk assessment and other forensic mental health topics. Her passion is caring for adults with serious mental illness and conducting research and policy consultation that support evidence-based care for this population.

Dr. “Patti” Fisher is the Chief Medical Officer at the Central Vermont Medical Center (CVMC). Formerly, she served as the medical director for Case

Management and Medical Staff Affairs, as well as Family Medicine Inpatient Service/Ambulatory Care Unit at the University of Vermont Medical Center.

She is a board-certified hospitalist who also served as vice president of UVM Health Network Credentialing and Enrollment. Dr. Fisher earned her medical degree from The University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston and completed her residency through Forbes Family Practice Residency in Pittsburgh, where she served as chief resident.

**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](http://www.VTMD.org).