

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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SDSMA Annual Meeting to Feature Leading Experts on Violence Prevention

The impact of violence is the focus of the South Dakota State Medical Association's 2019 Annual Leadership Conference on Friday, May 31 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Downtown Sioux Falls, 201 E. 8th St.

Highlights – disaster preparedness and response, gun violence, and responding to and preventing violence in the workplace:

- Trauma surgeon Charity H. Evans, MD, MHCM, FACS, will speak at 8:45 a.m. Dr. Evans has cared for adolescent patients who come to the emergency department in Omaha with gunshot wounds, stab wounds or assault injuries. Out of her want to do more for victims of violent crime than simply treat their injuries, Dr. Evans took action two years ago by launching a youth violence prevention program called Dusk to Dawn, designed to show at-risk youth the drastic procedures done in an attempt to save the lives of young gunshot victims inside the emergency department.
- James J. James, MD, Dr PH, MHA, will speak at 9:45 am about the role of healthcare providers in responding to violence. Dr. James is the executive director of the Society for Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness. He was instrumental in dealing with the response during incidents after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and is recognized as a leading expert in the area of disaster preparedness and emergency response to violence.
- A panel discussion at 10:45 a.m., featuring national and local health care leaders, will address the impact that violence has on the healthcare community, including prevention of and responding to violence emergencies both inside and outside of the workplace. Workplace violence-related injuries are on the rise, especially in hospitals, and the physicians of South Dakota are actively educating themselves on how we can best work together to reduce this violence.

Other highlights:

- The SDSMA will welcome David O. Barbe, MD, MHA (pronounced BARB), past president of the American Medical Association, at 8 a.m. Dr. Barbe will speak about important ongoing issues that impact the practice of medicine and the forces at play in Washington, D.C.
- The SDSMA Political Action Committee (SDSMA PAC) will welcome Joshua L. Shields, chief of policy & communications for Gov. Kristi Noem, at 12:15 p.m. for the PAC luncheon.

- Incoming SDSMA President Robert J. Summerer, DO, will be inaugurated at the banquet at 7 p.m. SDSMA awards and student scholarship recipients will also be announced at the banquet.

Media are invited to attend the conference. Interviews can be scheduled by contacting Elizabeth Reiss, SDSMA director of communications at 605-336-1965 or ereiss@sdsma.org. For a full event schedule, please visit www.sdsma.org.

The SDSMA is made up of physicians, residents and medical students who are dedicated to the health of South Dakotans. The mission of the SDSMA is to promote the art and science of medicine, protect and improve the health of the public, and advocate for the well-being of physicians and patients and the best environment for physicians to advance high-quality health care.

Learn more about the SDSMA at www.sdsma.org.