

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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SDSMA Elects New Officers, Announces Award Winners at Annual Conference

SIoux FALLS – June 3, 2019 – **Robert J. Summerer, DO**, of Madison became the 138th president of the South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) during the organization’s 2019 Annual Leadership Conference on Friday evening, May 31 in Sioux Falls. Outgoing president **Christopher T. Dietrich, MD**, of Rapid City, presented the presidential medallion to Dr. Summerer at the association’s banquet at the Hilton Garden Inn Downtown. Dr. Summerer’s priorities include rural and frontier medicine, mental health issues, regulatory relief, ongoing advocacy and the opioid crisis. In his inaugural speech, he emphasized working together toward solutions to challenges. “It is an honor to represent the physicians of South Dakota who are at the forefront of these discussions,” he said. “I look forward to working with our members, representatives and policymakers to develop practical ways to solve healthcare challenges.”

Dr. Summerer has been an active member of the SDSMA since 1999. He is a general surgeon at Madison Regional Health System.

Other SDSMA Board of Directors members for the 2019-2020 year are:

- President-Elect – **Benjamin C. Aaker, MD**, of Brandon
- Vice President – **Kara L. Dahl, MD**, of Aberdeen
- Secretary-Treasurer – **Jessica A. Claussen, MD**, of Mitchell
- Immediate Past President – **Christopher T. Dietrich, MD**, of Rapid City
- At-Large Director – **Susan M. Anderson, MD**, of Sioux Falls
- At-Large Director – **Robert C. Marciano, DO**, of Mobridge
- At-Large Director – **Stephan J. Miller, MD**, of Rapid City
- Policy Council Chair – **Mark L. Harlow, MD**, of Rapid City
- SDSMA Delegate to the American Medical Association – **Mary S. Carpenter, MD**, of Winner
- SDSMA Alternate Delegate to the American Medical Association – **Robert L. Allison, MD**, of Pierre

SDSMA Award Recipients

The SDSMA presented awards to recipients at the annual banquet May 31 in Sioux Falls.

The SDSMA’s **Distinguished Service Award** recognizes a physician or lay person who has been of outstanding service to the medical profession in South Dakota. This year there were two Distinguished Service Award recipients: **Timothy J. Soundy, MD**, of Sioux Falls, and **Robert E. Van Demark, Jr., MD**, of Sioux Falls.

The **Outstanding Young Physician Award** was presented to **Laura J. Hoefert, MD**, of Madison. This award is given to a young physician under 40 or within the first eight years of professional practice after

residency and fellowship training. This physician is recognized for outstanding achievements, dedication and service to the community and the SDSMA at the local, state and national levels.

The SDSMA's **Community Service Award** is presented each year to a physician who separates himself or herself through outstanding work in the area of community affairs. This year the award was given to **Rick A. Kooima, MD**, of Sioux Falls.

Jerome W. Freeman, MD, of Sioux Falls, received the SDSMA's **Richard P. Holm, MD, Media Award**. The Richard P. Holm, MD, Media Award recognizes an individual who has helped promote the medical field and medical issues.

The **Young at Heart Award** is presented to a physician who has inspired young physicians as a mentor, role model and leader. This year's recipient is **Tad B. Jacobs, DO**, of Sioux Falls.

Robert E. Van Demark, Jr., MD, of Sioux Falls, received the SDSMA's **Past President's Award**. This award is presented each year to the immediate past president of the SDSMA in recognition of their many years of work and dedication to organized medicine.

Brett D. Lawlor, MD, of Rapid City, received the Special Presidential Award. This award is chosen by the SDSMA president to recognize the recipient's contributions to the medical profession.

Six physicians were recognized with the SDSMA's **50-Year Award** for medical practice in South Dakota. Physicians who received this award were: **Eldon E. Bell, MD**, of Rapid City; **Dale E. Berkebile, MD**, of Rapid City; **Arthur A. Lampert, MD**, of Rapid City; **Patrick S. McGreevy, MD**, of Sioux Falls; **Gregory Naughton, MD**, of Sioux Falls; and **Loren K. Tschetter, MD**, of Sioux Falls. These physicians have been practicing medicine for a half-century and have contributed greatly to the medical profession.

The SDSMA serves 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 quality health care.

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