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SDSMA Elects New Officers, Announces Award Winners at Annual Meeting

SIoux Falls – June 2, 2015 – Tim Ridgway, MD, of Brandon became the 134th president of the South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) during the organization’s annual meeting May 29 in Sioux Falls. Outgoing president Mary J. Milroy, MD, of Yankton presented the presidential medallion to Dr. Ridgway at the SDSMA’s Presidential Banquet at the Hilton Garden Inn, Downtown Sioux Falls. “I am honored to lead the SDSMA during this important time, and will work to tackle challenging issues, especially the physician shortages facing our state,” Dr. Ridgway said. “Physicians must work together to improve care for our patients, and I am dedicated to being a strong voice for South Dakota’s physicians and the patients we serve in communities across South Dakota.”

Other officers elected during the session were:
- President-Elect – H. Thomas Hermann, MD, of Sturgis;
- Vice President – Robert E. Van Demark, Jr., MD, of Sioux Falls
- Secretary – Christopher T. Dietrich, MD, of Rapid City
- Treasurer – Michelle Baack, MD, of Sioux Falls
- At-Large Executive Committee Member – Benjamin Aaker, MD, of Sioux Falls
- At-Large Executive Committee Member – Robert J. Summerer, DO, of Madison
- SDSMA Alternate Delegate to the American Medical Association – Robert L. Allison, MD, of Pierre
- SDSMA Delegate to the American Medical Association – Mary S. Carpenter, MD, of Winner

SDSMA President Dr. Ridgway has been a member of the SDSMA since 1993. He is dean of faculty affairs and associate professor of medicine at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine and maintains an active practice in gastroenterology, serving as director of endoscopy at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Prior to becoming SDSMA president, Dr. Ridgway has held offices within the SDSMA’s Executive Committee, served as a councilor and alternate councilor on the SDSMA Council of Physicians, was a member of the Committee on Medical Education and Committee on Communications, and served on several task forces. He has also volunteered for the SDSMA’s advocacy efforts during state legislative sessions by participating in the SDSMA Doctor of the Day program.

Dr. Ridgway received his MD from the University of South Dakota School of Medicine and completed his internal medicine residency and gastroenterology fellowship at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine in Rochester, Minnesota. He is married to Mary Pat Wright and has three children: Jack, Mariel and Claire.

SDSMA Honors Members with Awards

The SDSMA honored South Dakota physicians at the organization’s annual banquet held on Friday, May 29.

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’s Distinguished Service Award was presented to Keith Hansen, MD, of Sioux Falls.
The Outstanding Young Physician Award was presented to Benjamin Aaker, MD, of Sioux Falls. 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’s recipient is Gene Burrish, MD, of Sioux Falls.

Stephen Eckrich, MD, of Rapid City, received the SDSMA’s Media Award. The 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 Tom Huber, MD, of Pierre.

Dan Heinemann, MD, of Canton, 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.

Ten other physicians were recognized with the SDSMA’s 50-Year Award for medical practice in South Dakota. Physicians who received that award were: John Barlow, MD, of Rapid City, Thomas Bunker, MD, of Minneapolis, Juan Chavier, MD, of Aberdeen, Allan Dewald, MD, of Rapid City, Harold Fromm, MD, of Rapid City, Warren Golliher, MD, of Spearfish, Douglas Pay, MD, of Sioux Falls, Streeter Shining, MD, of Rapid City, Jerry Walton, MD, of Sioux Falls, and James Wunder, MD, of Mobridge. These physicians have been practicing medicine for a half-century and have contributed greatly to the medical profession.

The SDSMA serves more than 2,000 physician and medical student members who are dedicated to the health of South Dakotans. The mission of the SDSMA is to promote the art and science of medicine, to protect and improve the health of the public and provide leadership and advocacy in the field of quality health care.

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