Society of Hospital Medicine

News

For Immediate Release

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SOCIETY OF HOSPITAL MEDICINE
RECOGNIZES FIVE LEADING HOSPITALISTS WITH
2006 NATIONAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

(PHILADELPHIA, PA – June 12, 2006) — The Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM), the premier U.S. medical society representing hospitalists, recently presented its 2006 national awards of excellence to five hospitalists whose work and research have contributed significantly to hospital medicine and to the betterment of patient care and hospital quality improvement across America. Hospitalists are physicians whose primary professional focus is the general medical care of hospitalized patients. The award winners were recognized at SHM's 2006 annual meeting held in Washington, D.C., in May. They included:

- **Award for Outstanding Service in Hospital Medicine – Erin Ragan Stucky, M.D.,** pediatric hospitalist, San Diego Children's Hospital-University of California, San Diego, and director of San Diego Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education.
- **Award for Clinical Excellence – Howard Epstein, M.D.,** hospitalist and medical director, Care Management and Palliative Care Departments, HealthPartners Medical Group, Regions Hospital, St. Paul, Minnesota, and adjunct assistant clinical professor of medicine, University of Minnesota.
- **Excellence in Research Award – Christopher P. Landrigan, M.D., MPH,** pediatric hospitalist and pediatric hospitalist fellowship director, Children's Hospital Boston; research director, Children's Hospital Inpatient Pediatric Service; director, Sleep and Patient Safety Program, Brigham and Women's Hospital; and assistant professor, Harvard Medical School.

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- **Excellence in Teaching Award – Sylvia McKean, M.D., FACP,** associate physician and hospitalist in the Division of General Internal Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston; medical director of the Brigham and Women's and Faulkner Hospitals Hospitalist Service; and assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School in Boston.
- **Excellence in Teaching Award – Thomas J. Yacovella, M.D.,** assistant professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota Hospitals and Clinic in Minneapolis; section head, Department of Internal Medicine, Regions Hospital in St. Paul; and a practicing hospitalist with HealthPartners Medical Group in St. Paul.

Dr. Stucky is recognized nationally as an innovator in pediatrics and has been one of the nation's most influential pediatric hospitalists. She has participated in landmark projects advancing pediatric medicine, including establishment of the Pediatric Research in the Inpatient Setting (PRIS) network and the development of the nation's first pediatric hospital medicine core curriculum program to help define the skills and knowledge base needed to practice pediatric hospital medicine.

In the public policy arena, Dr. Stucky has distinguished herself as a successful author and co-author many controversial policies requiring negotiation and is widely sought after as a policy reviewer, offering opinions to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Institutes of Medicine and others.

Throughout her career, Dr. Stucky has been the recipient of numerous awards, including: Best Doctors in America Award (2005), San Diego Magazine's Best Doctors (2003, 2002), American Academy of Family Physicians "Active Teacher in Family Medicine" Award from Camp Pendleton Family Practice Program (2002), and the Physician Leadership Award Children's Hospital (2000).

Dr. Stucky earned her Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Stanford University and received her M.D. from the University of California, San Francisco, in 1988. She did her residency at the University of California, San Diego, before becoming chief resident there from 1991-1992.

Dr. Epstein is a recognized leader in the enhancement of clinical excellence and standardization of care in hospital medicine in Minnesota and nationally and has championed the role of the hospitalist as part of an interdisciplinary team. As one of HealthPartners' first hospitalists, he produced significant improvements in resource utilization. As Regions Hospital's first medical director for care management, Dr. Epstein has been instrumental in expanding the role of the medical management steering committee to incorporate data collection, analysis and implementation of quality improvement strategies across the care continuum, thus enhancing patient care.

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Dr. Epstein was recently appointed chair of the Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement's (ICSI's) committee on evidence-based practice. ICSI is a collaborative institute comprised of 57 healthcare organizations representing nearly 80 percent of the physicians in Minnesota.

Dr. Epstein is best known for his focus on palliative care. As a member of the Minnesota Physicians for Palliative Care, he worked to shape a proposal for ICSI to develop a clinical practice guideline on Palliative and End of Life Care. He is the founding Medical Director of Regions' Palliative Care Team, the first inpatient program in St. Paul. During its first year, this program demonstrated high satisfaction from patients and families dealing with a life-limiting illness, while achieving reductions in unnecessary costs of care.

Dr. Epstein attended Washington University in St. Louis where he received his Bachelor of Arts in 1986 and his Doctor of Medicine in 1991. After completing his residency in internal medicine at the University of Minnesota in 1994, he joined the teaching faculty at St. Paul-Ramsey Medical Center (now Regions Hospital).

Dr. Landrigan has rapidly established himself as one of the nation's leading investigators in hospital medicine and patient safety and is a pioneer in academic pediatric hospital medicine. He was the first physician in the nation to do a fellowship in pediatric hospital medicine, and his research is credited with helping to define the field and its future.

Over the last several years, Dr. Landrigan has participated in landmark projects, including the establishment of the PRIS network; the creation of a second textbook for pediatric hospital medicine; and creation of the Harvard Work Hours, Health, and Safety group, which has established the risks of physician sleep deprivation on patient and physician safety.

Dr. Landrigan earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Haverford College in Pennsylvania in 1991; an M.D. from Mount Sinai Medical School in New York, NY; and his M.P.H. from Harvard School of Public Health. He did his residency in pediatrics at Children's Hospital Boston and completed a fellowship in general pediatrics/clinical effectiveness there.

After completing his fellowship, Dr. Landrigan joined Children's Hospital Boston's inpatient service. There, he co-authored one of the first papers to examine medication errors and adverse drug events in the pediatric population, which was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. He subsequently became interested in the effects of physician sleep deprivation on safety and led a study funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in which it was found that interns working ACGME-compliant shifts of 24-30 hours made 36 percent more serious

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medical errors, and five times as many serious diagnostic errors, as those whose scheduled work was limited to 16 consecutive hours (*New England Journal of Medicine*, 2004). Today, his patient safety research continues to have a major impact.

Dr. McKean has received more than a dozen awards for leadership, excellence and teaching, including the prestigious George W. Thorn Award (1997-1998) from Brigham and Women's Hospital for outstanding contributions to clinical education. In 2002, she was appointed "scholar" as a charter member of the Harvard Medical School (HMS) Academy in recognition of excellence and commitment to improvement and innovation in medical education. Most recently she was nominated for Harvard Medical School's 2005 Faculty Prize for Excellence in Teaching.

Dr. McKean currently serves as an academic inpatient attending, teaching hospital medicine to residents and medical students. As medical director of the BWH hospitalist service, she also mentors junior hospitalists, fostering their careers in academia for both research and education.

As an advocate for hospitalist educators, Dr. McKean is working to increase hospitalists' roles in medical education on a national level. Recently, she was a lead author of *How to Use the Core Competencies in Hospital Medicine* and was an editor of *The Competencies in Hospital Medicine: A Framework for Curriculum Development*, published in February 2006 by SHM. This publication is the nation's first book outlining academic core competencies in hospital medicine and will provide a roadmap for cultivation and accreditation of hospital medicine as a distinct specialty.

Dr. McKean received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University and went on to earn her M.D. from Dartmouth Medical School in 1977. She completed her residency at The New York Hospital and Memorial Sloan Kettering (Cornell Medical Center) in New York City, followed by a fellowship in nephrology at The Rogosin Kidney Center, The New York Hospital, New York City.

Dr. Yacovella has been recognized throughout his career for his expansive medical knowledge and ability to convey complex medical concepts to his students. He has received more than seven prior distinguished teaching awards from the University of Minnesota Hospital and Clinics in Minneapolis where he is currently an assistant professor of medicine. Those awards include: Teacher of the Year, University of Minnesota Department of Internal Medicine (2003, 2001 & 1998); Minnesota Medical Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award (2003, 2001, 2000); and Academic Health Center Recognition of Excellence in Teaching (2001).

Dr. Yacovella also is a hospitalist at HealthPartners Medical Group and is a section head in the Department of Internal Medicine at Regions Hospital in St. Paul. He discovered his love of

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teaching early in his career as chief resident at St. Paul Ramsey Medical Center (now Regions Hospital) from 1996-1997. He was one of the first hospitalists hired there for what is now a well-established, hospitalist program. Many credit the success of the program to Dr. Yacovella.

Dr. Yacovella received his Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1989 where he also obtained his M.D. in 1993. He began his residency program at the University of Minnesota Hospitals and Clinics and was made chief resident at St. Paul Ramsey Medical Center in 1996.

The Society of Hospital Medicine was established in 1997 to support and enhance hospitalists and the practice of hospital medicine. Over the past few years, research studies proving that hospitalists decrease patient lengths of stay, hospital costs and patient mortality rates while increasing patient satisfaction, have galvanized the hospital medicine profession and spurred demand for hospitalists nationwide. Currently there are approximately 15,000 hospitalists nationwide. This number is expected to grow to 30,000 by the end of the decade. For more information, visit the SHM Web site at www.hospitalmedicine.org.

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