



For Immediate Release
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Vermont Medical Society Honors 2022 Leadership Award Winners

*VMS Honors Those who Have Demonstrated Outstanding Service
to Health Care and Community*

Stowe, Vt. (November 9, 2022) – During the 209th VMS Annual Meeting this past weekend, the Vermont Medical Society (VMS) recognized seven individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the health and well-being of Vermonters and the nation during the past year.

Edward C. Borrazzo, M.D., Associate Professor and Division Chief of General Surgery and Gastrointestinal Surgery at the University of Vermont Medical Center, has been selected as the Vermont Medical Society's Distinguished Service Award winner for 2022. The Distinguished Service Award is the highest award VMS can bestow upon one of its members and is given on the basis of meritorious service in the science and art of medicine and for outstanding contributions to the medical profession, its organizations, and the welfare of the public.

Dr. Borrazzo was nominated for his significant contributions and innovations in the practice of surgery statewide. He is currently the Albert G. Mackay MD and H. Gordon Page MD Professor in Surgical Education and is Associate Professor and Division Chief of General Surgery and Gastrointestinal Surgery at University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMCMC). He is the immediate past President of the Vermont Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, immediate past Vice President of the New England Surgical Society and is a member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons. He received the John H. Davis MD Service Award, was a national nominee for the Arnold P. Gold Foundation

Humanistic Care Award and received this year's Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons Service Award. Dr. Borrazzo is looked at as a mentor, an advisor, a friend, and a staunch supporter of medical students, surgical residents, hospital colleagues, and surgeons here in Vermont and nationally.

Both **Jason Brazelton, M.D.**, a pathologist at Porter Medical Center who specializes in hematopathology, and **Tim Lahey, M.D.**, an infectious diseases specialist and medical ethicist at the University of Vermont Medical Center, received the Vermont Medical Society's 2022 Physician of the Year Award. The Physician of the Year Award is granted annually to a physician licensed in the state of Vermont who has demonstrated outstanding performance in the quality of care given to patients; demonstrated skillful and compassionate patient care; and demonstrated dedication to the welfare of patients in accordance with accepted principles of good medical practice.

As a proactive member of Porter Medical Center's (PMC) medical staff, Dr. Brazelton has been selected for his reliable innovation during the COVID-19 pandemic. He led PMC's efforts to operationalize and create massive transfusion protocols, contributed to modernizing pre-operative testing protocols and also helped create a COVID-19 testing algorithm to meet the needs of PMC's patients and staff. Dr. Brazelton's thoughtful and collaborative approach improved care and has been a valuable asset to PMC's medical staff.

Dr. Lahey has been selected for being a consistent, valuable resource of information during the COVID-19 pandemic. Medical professionals across New England, along with the greater public, turned to Dr. Lahey's updates throughout the multiple challenges of the pandemic. Whether updating the UVMHC medical staff, testifying before the Vermont Legislature, or speaking regularly with the media, Dr. Lahey has been a trusted source of medical information. He is recognized regionally as being able to discuss complex issues with compassion and empathy.

Kim Blake, M.D., an obstetrician-gynecologist and a fierce advocate for substance use prevention and treatment, received the *Vermont Medical Society's 2022 Physician Award for Community Services*. The Physician Award for Community Service is granted annually to a physician licensed in the state of Vermont who has compiled an outstanding record of community service, which reflects well on the profession. Dr. Blake has been selected for her outstanding commitment to raising awareness of the impacts of substance use disorder. She has been a dedicated volunteer, assisting families who have lost loved ones, treating patients with substance use disorder, and advocating for harm reduction methods. Dr. Blake's tireless efforts continue to provide support for all Vermonters struggling with the disease of substance use.

Patsy Kelso, PhD, Vermont's State Epidemiologist for Infectious Diseases, and **Megan Humphrey**, the founder of Helping and Nurturing Diverse Seniors, or [HANDS](#), were both awarded the *Vermont Medical Society's 2022 Citizen of the Year Award*. The Citizen of the Year Award is given to a non-physician who in the past and presently has made a significant contribution to the health of the people of Vermont.

Ms. Kelso received this award due to her ability to lead the Vermont Health Department's (VDH) epidemiological response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although she has faced other public health crises as the State Epidemiologist—the H1N1 pandemic, pertussis outbreaks and TB cases - none have presented the persistent challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Kelso led a multi-disciplinary team at VDH and guided Vermont through policy changes as the pandemic evolved. She helped Vermonters with valuable updates on the state of the pandemic through data presentations, press conferences and media interviews. Ms. Kelso was seen as a calm and knowledgeable voice for Vermonters throughout the pandemic.

As the founder of Helping and Nurturing Diverse Seniors, or HANDS, Megan Humphrey meets the award criteria as an individual who has made a significant

contribution to the health of the people in Vermont. HANDS is a small non-profit that was established primarily to fill gaps in providing food to older adults in Vermont. They operate on the principle that *“one person can make a difference, but it’s even more effective when many brains and hands come together to solve a problem.”*

Wendy Davis, M.D., pediatrician, and leader of the Vermont Child Improvement Program ([VCHIP](#)), received the *Vermont Medical Society’s 2022 Founder’s Award*. The Founders’ Award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, vision, and achievement in improving the health of Vermonters and all Americans.

Dr. Davis has been selected for her outstanding service to Vermont families and child health practitioners across the country. As a primary care pediatrician, Dr. Davis has served as the director of the Maternal Child Health division at the Vermont Department of Health, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Health, and most recently a leader in the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program. She has also held important national roles representing the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter (AAPVT) and as a national board member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Davis has chaired the AAP Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee and contributed to the publication on eliminating race-based medicine. This recognition of Dr. Davis’ contributions come as she nears retirement from her incredible service to Vermont families.

The VMS Physician Leadership Awards for 2022 were presented during the 209th VMS Collaborative Meeting awards ceremony on Friday, November 4th, 2022, at Topnotch Resort in Stowe, Vermont.

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About the Vermont Medical Society: The Vermont Medical Society is the leading voice of physicians in the state and is dedicated to optimizing the health of all Vermonters and the health care 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.