



For Immediate Release
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Vermont Medical Society Physician Members Adopt 2021 Policies, Tap New Officers, Present 2020 Leadership Awards and UVM Medical Student Scholarship

Montpelier, Vt. (Nov. 24, 2020) – The Vermont Medical Society (VMS) physician and physician assistant members met this month for the VMS’ 207th Annual meeting and first virtual Annual meeting. Hosted in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter, the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians and the Vermont Psychiatric Association, the meeting saw high participation, engaging speakers Zooming in from around the country and CME sessions focused on health equity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. VMS members adopted three 2021 policies on health reform, elected a new slate of 2021 Society officers, awarded the Mildred Reardon medical student scholarship and honored our 2020 VMS Leadership Awardees.

VMS members adopted three policy resolutions, which this year focused on health reform at both the national and state level and reflect the high priority Vermont’s physicians place on improving access to health care for their patients, lowering health care costs and reducing administrative burdens on Vermont clinicians. [Click here](#) for the full text of the resolutions. VMS resolutions are catalysts for the organization’s legislative efforts and these resolutions will inform the organization’s public policy efforts on behalf of its 2,400 physician and physician assistant members. Click for the full press release: [Vermont Medical Society Adopts New Policies for 2021](#)

VMS members also elected a new slate of officers and named **Simha Ravven, M.D.** as the new VMS President. Dr. Ravven is the Chief Medical Officer of the

Howard Center in Burlington, VT and Assistant Clinical Professor in Law and Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine. VMS members named **Patricia Fisher, M.D.**, the Chief Medical Officer of Central Vermont Medical Center (CVMC), as President-Elect and **Ryan Sexton, M.D.**, the President of Medical Staff at Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital (NVRH), as the Vice-President. Click for the full press release: [Vermont Medical Society Taps New Officers](#)

VMS members recognized five individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the health and well-being of Vermonters and the nation during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Mark Levine, M.D.**, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Health, received the *Vermont Medical Society's 2020 Distinguished Service Award*. **Jessie Leyse, M.D.**, an infectious disease specialist at the Central Vermont Medical Center (CVMC), received the *Vermont Medical Society's 2020 Physician of the Year Award*. **Jean Anderrson-Swayze, M.D.**, a family physician practicing in Middlebury, VT, received the *Vermont Medical Society's 2020 Physician Award for Community Services*. **Senator Virginia "Ginny" Lyons**, D-Williston, the current Chair of the Vermont Senate Health and Welfare Committee, won the *Vermont Medical Society's 2020 Citizen of the Year Award*. **Anthony Fauci, M.D.**, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984, received the *Vermont Medical Society's 2020 Founder's Award*. Click for the full press release: [Vermont Medical Society Honors Outstanding Service 2020](#)

The Vermont Medical Society's Education and Research Foundation (VMSERF) has awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine student **Adessa Morano**. The scholarship program was created to encourage young physicians to return to Vermont after completing their residency training and is named in honor of Dr. Mildred Reardon, a faculty member at the Larner College of Medicine at UVM, who was instrumental in forming VMSERF. Click for the full press release: [Vermont Medical Society Awards Medical School Scholarship](#)

About the Vermont Medical Society Education and Research Foundation:

The VMSERF is a nonprofit charitable organization sponsored by the Vermont Medical Society and organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. The purpose of VMSERF is to advance the public good by supporting educational and research activities in the field of health.

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