



For Immediate Release
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Vermont Medical Society Taps New Officers

Simha Ravven, M.D., named president of state physician and physician assistant association

Montpelier, Vt. (Nov. 9, 2021) – **Simha Ravven, M.D.**, was named president of the Vermont Medical Society (VMS) for a second term during its 208th annual meeting November 5th.

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.

As president of VMS, Dr. Ravven will maintain her leading role in the Society's public policy efforts in Montpelier and Washington, D.C. VMS priorities for the upcoming year include:

- prioritizing primary care and preventive services through increased reimbursement rates, equal coverage for audio-only telehealth services, reduced administrative burdens and health care workforce development; and
- advancing policies to adequately address pediatric mental health needs.

Dr. Ravven said, *"I am honored to be elected to serve a second term as the VMS President. I am proud of our ongoing work supporting physicians, physician assistants, and the healthcare workforce in Vermont, in the face of significant stressors. We will continue our work advocating for evidence-based public health*

policies that support the wellness of the healthcare workforce and Vermont communities.

The VMS membership's choice of a psychiatrist to serve as the President of the Vermont Medical Society speaks to the organization's continued commitment to serving Vermonter's mental health care needs. It is an acknowledgement that mental health is central to overall health, and an acknowledgement of the importance of access to mental health and substance use treatment, especially as we grapple with the increased need brought on by the pandemic."

Dr. Ravven was a studio art major as an undergraduate at Hamilton College and decided to pursue medicine after serving in the United States Peace Corps in Morocco. She graduated from the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, completed her psychiatric residency at Harvard Medical School. She went on to train in Forensic Psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Ravven is Board Certified in General Adult and Forensic Psychiatry. She has a private practice in forensic psychiatry and frequently lectures on clinical violence risk assessment and other forensic mental health topics. Her passion is caring for adults with serious mental illness and conducting research and policy consultation that support evidence-based care for this population.

Also, during the meeting, VMS members elected **Ryan Sexton, M.D., and Rebecca Bell, M.D.**, as president-elect and vice president, respectively.

Ryan J. Sexton, M.D. is an emergency medicine physician and serves as Medical Director of Emergency Services and President of Medical Staff at Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital (NVRH) in St. Johnsbury, VT.

Dr. Sexton graduated from the University of Vermont College of Medicine and completed residency in Emergency Medicine at UMDNJ Cooper University Hospital in Camden, NJ. He completed a fellowship in Disaster Medicine and EMS at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University in Camden, NJ. After

completion of fellowship training, Dr. Sexton practiced clinically at Cooper Hospital as an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine before returning to Vermont to work at NVRH. Dr. Sexton is double board certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine in the specialties of Emergency Medicine and Emergency Medical Services. Dr. Sexton serves as Medical Advisor to VT District 5 EMS, as the President of the Vermont Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and also sits on the Vermont Board of Medical Practice. He also serves as Medical Advisor to the Vermont Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Coalition (VHEPC) as Chair of the VT Emergency Department Medical Director Committee.

Rebecca Bell, M.D., is a pediatric critical care specialist at UVMMC's Children's Hospital in Burlington, Vermont and the current president of the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter. Dr. Bell is also an associate professor of Pediatrics at the Larner College of Medicine at UVM. Outside of clinical care, she works on injury prevention efforts for the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP). She is active in community and legislative advocacy efforts focused on suicide prevention, firearm safe storage counseling, vaccine confidence counseling, infant safe sleep, early childhood education access, and child health advocacy. Dr. Bell received her medical degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School and her master's in Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. She completed her pediatric residency training as well as her pediatric critical care fellowship at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

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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.

