



For Immediate Release
Contact: Jill Sudhoff-Guerin
(802) 917-5817
jsudhoffguerin@vtmd.org

Vermont Medical Society Honors 2024 Leadership Award Winners

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

Stowe, Vt. (Nov. 5, 2024) – During the 211th VMS Annual Meeting this past weekend, the Vermont Medical Society (VMS) recognized six individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the health and well-being of Vermonters and the nation during the past year.

L.E. Faricy, M.D., pediatric pulmonologist at the University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMCC), received the **Vermont Medical Society's 2024 Distinguished Service Award**. 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. Faricy was nominated for her stalwart commitment to the public health of her patients, students, and all Vermonters, as well as a deep empathy and belief that policies should protect youth and families. Dr. Faricy's passion for providing care for youth and adolescents with respiratory and lung problems has contributed to her rise as a leading voice in Vermont and New England in bringing public awareness to the harms of youth use of flavored tobacco products. Lawmakers and community leaders alike have continually turned to Dr. Faricy for clear articulation of evidence-based guidance, straightforward support, and sensible tools on how Vermont can support our youth that are struggling with nicotine addiction.

Katherine Katie Gamble Marvin, M.D., family physician at Lamoille Health Partners, received the **Vermont Medical Society's 2024 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.

Dr. Marvin was nominated for her incredible impact in serving not only as a clinician, but also a mentor, teacher and advocate. Her work and leadership in primary care, addiction treatment, and in advocating for practical healthcare policies, demonstrates a deep commitment to improving both individual patient care and broader public health. Dr. Marvin's capacity to support her patients with empathy, while advocating to provide the services her patients need, inspires future clinicians to pursue primary care and to adopt a patient-centered approach, ensuring that her model of trust, compassion, and advocacy continues to make an impact.

Andrea Green, M.D., a pediatrician at UVMMC and an associate professor at the UVM Larner College of Medicine, received the **Vermont Medical Society's 2024 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. Green was nominated for her work to apply a Child's Rights framework to pediatric policy. She currently runs the immigrant clinic at UVMMC, which serves as the medical home for refugee and immigrant children from time of arrival in Vermont until age 21. At a time when immigrant families face discrimination and inequity throughout the country, when national political leaders vilify New Americans, her extraordinary efforts to improve the care these families receive

and change the national conversation is crucial and necessary. Dr. Green's work serves as a model in advocacy for the protection and empowerment of vulnerable populations.

Rep. Lori Houghton, Chair of Vermont's House Health Care Committee, and **Rep. Alyssa Black**, Ranking Member of the Vermont House Health Care Committee, were both awarded **the Vermont Medical Society's 2024 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.

Representative Lori Houghton was nominated for her steadfast commitment to advance pragmatic and impactful improvements to Vermont's healthcare system. She is a champion for healthcare policy improvements and has used her position in the Legislature to successfully pass policies providing access to telehealth services, licensure flexibilities during the pandemic, and policies requiring payment parity for both audio and video telehealth services. As Chair of the Health Care Committee, Rep. Houghton made reducing prior authorizations, and other administrative burdens, a number one priority for her committee this session and was instrumental in the passage of H.766.

Representative Alyssa Black was nominated for being a tireless and effective advocate in the Vermont Legislature and for her ability to act on behalf of both physicians in Vermont, as well as the patients they treat. Rep. Black is the current Ranking Member of the House Health Care Committee and her consistent dedication to improving the health of Vermonters resulted in the first meaningful firearm safety bill in Vermont that includes a 72-hr waiting period. Through her tenacity and hard work she worked with Rep. Houghton to pass H.766, a long overdue response to the seemingly endless insurance industry intrusions into the practice of primary care.

Jessica McNally, M.D., ophthalmologist at the Central Vermont Medical Center in Berlin, received the **Vermont Medical Society's 2024 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. McNally was nominated for her unwavering commitment to the safety of patients across the State. With a year after year effort to expand surgery to unqualified professionals, risking the eyesight of Vermonters, she has advanced the importance of education and training in providing appropriate medical care, mentoring medical students in advocacy, and leading grassroots efforts with all ophthalmologists in the State.

The VMS Leadership Awards for 2024 were presented during the 211th VMS Collaborative Meeting awards ceremony on Friday, November 1st, 2024, at Topnotch Resort in Stowe, Vermont. Please join us in celebrating these true Vermont leaders.

###

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 3,100 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.