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## **Vermont Medical Society Taps New Officers**

*Ryan Sexton, M.D., named president of state physician and physician assistant association*

**Stowe, Vt.** (Nov. 9, 2022) – **Ryan J. Sexton, M.D., FACEP, FFSMB**, was named president of the Vermont Medical Society (VMS) during the VMS' 209<sup>th</sup> annual meeting at the Topnotch Resort in Stowe, VT this past Saturday, November 5th. Dr. Sexton, is an emergency medicine physician and serves as Medical Director of Emergency Services at Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital (NVRH) in St. Johnsbury, VT.

As president of VMS, Dr. Sexton will lead the Society's public policy efforts in Montpelier and Washington, D.C. VMS priorities for the upcoming year include:

- passing a shield law to provide legal protections for clinicians that perform abortions services and gender-affirming care;
- strengthening 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. Sexton said, "I am excited to step into this role and use my voice to advocate for my fellow clinicians and for our Vermont patients across the care continuum. The health care community faces extreme challenges right now, but these challenges can also be viewed as opportunities for improvement. Together, with

the breadth of experience of my Vermont Medical Society colleagues, we can work to both ensure the sustainability of our practices and to enhance patient access to care. Access to care must be a primary focus for our policymakers. At the same time, many of us face unprecedented risk of workplace violence. Violence against healthcare workers must be urgently addressed. In the face of the recent Dobb's decision, legal protections for those who provide abortion services and gender-affirming care also must be secured. I am passionate about these areas, and I will continue to advocate for solutions on multiple initiatives including improved access for pediatric mental health, initiatives to reduce administrative burden, and efforts to enhance physician work-life balance. We have a lot of work to do, and I am ready to roll up my sleeves."

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 his 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, is past- President of the Vermont Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and recently was a member of the Vermont Board of Medical Practice. He also serves as Medical Advisor to the Vermont Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Coalition (VHEPC) and is Chair of the Vermont Emergency Department Medical Director Committee.

Also during the meeting, VMS members elected **Rebecca Bell, M.D., MPH, FAAP, and Katherine Gamble Marvin, M.D., ABFM**, as president-elect and vice president of VMS, respectively.

Rebecca Bell, M.D., is a pediatric critical care specialist at UVMHC'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.

Katherine (Katie) Gamble Marvin, M.D., ABFM, is a family physician at Lamoille Health Partners, a Federally Qualified Health Center, in Stowe and Morrisville VT. She received her bachelor's degree from Princeton University, earned her doctorate at the University of Maryland College of Medicine, and completed her family medicine residency at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine. Following a surgical obstetrical fellowship at Swedish Hospital in Seattle, Washington, she settled in Lamoille County with her husband, a local sugar maker.

Dr. Katie Marvin is an advocate for affordable primary care and has been certified by the American Board of Family Medicine since 2007. She specializes in infants, pediatrics, teen health, and outpatient procedures, while also giving attention to areas of need related to social determinants of health. Currently, a portion of her practice focuses on the evidence based and accessible use of medication assisted treatment for people struggling with substance use disorders.

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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](http://www.VTMD.org).