



For Immediate Release
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Vermont Medical Society Taps New Officers

Rebecca Bell, M.D., named president of state physician and physician assistant association

Stowe, Vt. (Nov. 7, 2023) – **Rebecca Bell, M.D., MPH, FAAP**, was named president of the Vermont Medical Society (VMS) during the VMS' 210th annual meeting at the Topnotch Resort in Stowe, VT this past Saturday, November 4th. Dr. Bell is a pediatric critical care specialist at the University of Vermont Medical Center's Children's Hospital in Burlington, Vermont and she is also an associate professor of Pediatrics at the Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont.

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

- strengthening access to primary care through predictable reimbursement rates, increasing the percent of health care dollars directed to primary care, and primary care workforce development;
- reducing the paperwork burden in health care, such as prior authorizations and insurance requirements;
- preventing the targeting of youth to use flavored tobacco products, high potency cannabis, and substances laced with fentanyl;
- increasing firearm safety and gun violence prevention.

Dr. Bell said, "It's such a privilege to work in Vermont and to care for our communities, but the healthcare system that we're currently working in feels really precarious, and tenuous. Holding these two things at the same time to be true,

there's an urgency to make the practice of medicine more sustainable for us, for trainees coming up, and certainly for our patients receiving care.”

Outside of clinical care, Dr. Bell 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 Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.

Also during the meeting, VMS members elected **Katherine Gamble Marvin, M.D., ABFM, Naiim Ali, M.D.**, as president-elect and vice president of VMS, respectively, as well as **Mark Fung, M.D.** as treasurer.

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.

Naiim Ali, M.D., FRCPC, is a Diagnostic Radiologist and Division Chief of Ultrasound Imaging at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington and an Associate Professor of Radiology at UVM's Lerner College of Medicine. Dr. Ali received his medical degree from New Jersey Medical School. He completed his diagnostic radiology residency training at the University of Vermont Medical Center and his fellowship in abdominal imaging and intervention at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.

His clinical interests include ultrasound imaging, abdominal/pelvic MRI, abdominal/pelvic CT, nuclear medicine, and gastrointestinal/genitourinary fluoroscopy. Dr. Ali's research interests include medical education, healthcare policy, healthcare finance, and global health. He has served in various leadership roles in organized medicine societies including the American Medical Association and American College of Radiology since 2010.

Mark Fung, M.D., pathologist at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington and Director of Blood Bank and Transfusion Medicine and Professor of Pathology at Lerner School of Medicine at UVM. Dr. Fung received his bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University, earned his doctorate at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine, and completed his residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

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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 2,900 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.