

Physician Advocates Recognized with Inaugural Award from Columbia's Center on Medicine as a Profession

Doctors Making a Difference in Health Care Policy

NEW YORK (Date) - The Institute on Medicine as a Profession (IMAP) and its partner, the Center on Medicine as a Profession (CMAP) at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, announced the Merit Award, an inaugural award to recognize physician advocates for their accomplishments in promoting and realizing the principles of civic engagement and medical professionalism.

The outstanding recipients of the first Merit Award selections are: Neil Calman, M.D., from the Institute for Family Health Inc. in New York City; Lisa Chamberlain, M.D., at the Stanford School of Medicine in California; and Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., at the University of Arizona.

IMAP-CMAP will honor the three winners with a ceremony to be held at Columbia University on Thursday, November 13, 2008. Each winner will receive a cash prize of \$10,000. The award will be given annually.

Physician advocates play a crucial role in enhancing the political process, moving the levers of change by engaging the public. In a society confronted with pressing issues of equity and access to health care, the role of physician advocates is of crucial importance.

“The winners of this award exemplify medical professionals who go beyond an exclusive focus on the care of individual patients and advocate on behalf of underserved and vulnerable populations,” said David Rothman, Ph.D., president of the Institute on Medicine as a Profession (IMAP), director of CMAP, and Bernard Schoenberg Professor of Social Medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. “They

look past the immediate obstacles faced by a specific patient to improve the underlying social, economic, and political conditions that are barriers to better health outcomes.”

Bronx, NY Primary Care Physician Addresses Racial Disparities in Health Outcomes

Dr. Neil Calman began his work as a physician advocate in medical school by reporting unethical and dangerous experiments performed on African-American women. When his complaints were ignored, he involved the press; the experiments were stopped, and he was asked to serve on the newly created human experimentation committee. Dr. Calman is the president and co-founder of the Institute for Family Health. Under his leadership, the organization delivered more than 200,000 primary care, mental health and dental visits to more than 70,000 individuals in 2007. Dr. Calman also directed the formation of Bronx Health REACH in 1999, a coalition of 40 organizations dedicated to eliminating the impact of racial disparities on health outcome. Among its many activities, Bronx Health REACH brought more than 500 Bronx residents to Albany to educate 92 legislators about racial disparities in the health care system.

San Francisco Pediatrician Improves Children’s Access to Health Care

Dr. Lisa Chamberlain exemplifies the power of physician advocacy to improve children’s health. As a California-based pediatrician, she has increased children’s access to treatment for asthma and created community-based school programs to encourage children to choose behaviors which reduce their risk of obesity. In response to a potential veto of the 2007 Congressional bill that reauthorized and expanded the State Children’s Health Insurance Act (SCHIP), Dr. Chamberlain, who’s based in San Francisco, staged protests as part of a “Stand Up for Children” movement. The movement spread across

the nation, with 41 residency programs in 22 states holding public rallies and legislative phone-a-thons. These efforts helped bring about the passage of the SCHIP Extension Act of 2007, improving health care access for millions of children.

Arizona Endocrinologist Combats Diabetes in Indian Communities

Dr. Yvette Roubideaux's advocacy involves a particularly vulnerable population, American Indians and Alaska Natives. The organization that she chairs, the Awakening the Spirit Team of the American Diabetes Association, helped bring about Congress's creation of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) in 1997. Dr. Roubideaux has organized letter writing campaigns, congressional visits, and publicity for the program's success stories that enabled it to be reauthorized several times with increased funding. Program spending increased from \$30 million per year in 1997 to \$150 million per year from 2008 through 2011. Her advocacy efforts have resulted in more than 400 programs on diabetes prevention and treatment in Indian communities in 35 states.

“We at IMAP and CMAP are delighted to acknowledge the work of these three exemplary physicians. Their efforts to improve access to health care by building sustainable community programs may well inspire others to follow in their footsteps,” said Dr. Rothman.

The Institute on Medicine as a Profession seeks to shape a world inside and outside of medicine that is responsive to the [ideals of medical professionalism](#). IMAP supports research on the past, present, and future roles of medical professionalism in guiding individual and collective behavior. It aims to make professionalism in medicine relevant to physicians, leaders of medical organizations, policy analysts, public officials, and consumers.

CMAP was established in October 2003 at the Columbia University College of

Physicians and Surgeons through a joint agreement by the Institute on Medicine as a Profession (IMAP) and Columbia University. CMAP carries out IMAP's programmatic agenda, and David J. Rothman, Ph.D., serves as CMAP's director. Both centers are located at Columbia University Medical Center.

For more information on the Merit Award, or to nominate a candidate or apply for next year's award, please visit: <http://www.imapny.org/> or call: 212-342-4769.

Columbia University Medical Center provides international leadership in basic, pre-clinical and clinical research, in medical and health sciences education, and in patient care. The medical center trains future leaders and includes the dedicated work of many physicians, scientists, public health professionals, dentists, and nurses at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Mailman School of Public Health, the College of Dental Medicine, the School of Nursing, the biomedical departments of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and allied research centers and institutions. Established in 1767, Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons was the first institution in the country to grant the M.D. degree and is among the most selective medical schools in the country. Columbia University Medical Center is home to the largest medical research enterprise in New York City and state and one of the largest in the United States. For more information, please visit www.cumc.columbia.edu.

#####