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**FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION OF
PRESIDENT AND CEO JAMES N. THOMPSON, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

FSMB Sets Stage for Leadership Change

DALLAS - The Federation of State Medical Boards, a national not-for-profit representing the 70 medical boards of the United States and its territories, announced today the resignation of president and chief executive officer, James N. Thompson, M.D., F.A.C.S. Dr. Thompson's last day in office will be Friday, October 31.

In keeping with FSMB policy, the organization's Board will immediately begin a national search for a new chief executive officer.

"My years at the FSMB have been among the most gratifying of my life," said Dr. Thompson, who joined the FSMB as its chief executive officer in March 2002. "Now I very much want to spend more time with my family and explore other interests, including those that continue to serve my profession. The FSMB is at a strong point for a transition in leadership."

"Jim's leadership has strengthened the FSMB as a steady voice for quality health care in this country," said Regina Benjamin, M.D., M.B.A., chair of the FSMB. "His commitment to the FSMB and to the work of state medical boards has guided the FSMB's efforts in helping physicians provide consistently excellent medical care throughout the United States."

During Dr. Thompson's tenure, the FSMB achieved national recognition for developing policy and educational resources to assist state medical boards in promoting safe and effective treatment of pain. He strongly advocated for patient safety and for efforts to make it easier for physicians to practice medicine across state borders. He also worked with a broad swath of regulatory agencies to address challenges brought on by new technologies, such as the inappropriate prescribing of drugs over the Internet.

Most recently, Dr. Thompson advocated the FSMB's involvement in an intensive exploration of how the medical regulatory system can work to assure the public that physicians keep pace with new knowledge, technologies and skills throughout their professional lives.

Prior to joining the FSMB, Dr. Thompson was Dean of the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, where he served on the faculty for 23 years. He is the recipient of the 2006 Alumni Achievement Award from The Ohio State University College of Medicine, the 2006 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from DePauw University, and the 2007 Presidential Citation from the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

Dr. Thompson earned his B.A. degree at DePauw University and his M.D. degree at Ohio State University. He completed his residency in surgery (otolaryngology) at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and is certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology.

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) is a national not-for-profit organization representing the 70 medical boards of the United States and its territories. The FSMB's mission is to continuously improve the quality, safety and integrity of health care by developing and promoting high standards for physician licensure and practice. Visit our website at www.fsmb.org.

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