



**For Immediate Release: April 28, 2017**

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## **Federation of State Medical Boards Announces 2017 Award Recipients**

(FORT WORTH, TEXAS, April 28, 2017) – The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) announced the recipients of its 2017 awards, which were presented on Saturday at the FSMB Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, Texas. Each year, the FSMB recognizes outstanding service and leadership to the field of medical regulation.

### **Distinguished Service Award**

This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated the highest level of service, commitment and contribution to the FSMB, advancing the profession of medical licensure and discipline and strengthening public protection.



#### **Freda M. Bush, MD**

Dr. Bush served the medical regulatory community with outstanding leadership on the state and national levels for many years. A member of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure for a dozen years, she served in several leadership roles, including President and Chair of the board's Joint Practice Committee for Advanced Nursing Practice. Elected to the FSMB Board of Directors in 2003, she provided key leadership to the organization in a variety of roles for nearly a decade, including terms as Treasurer, Chair-elect and Chair. Her influence also has extended across the country as a speaker on sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases and social behavior education. Dr. Bush has served as a board member of the Medical Institute of Sexual Health and as a presidential appointee to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.



#### **Robert C. Knittle, MS**

During his 11-year tenure as Executive Director of the West Virginia Board of Medicine, Mr. Knittle worked diligently to modernize processes regulating the practice of the state's physicians, physician assistants and podiatrists. Under his leadership, the West Virginia board transitioned from its position under the Department of Health and Human Resources to an autonomous agency. He led the board's advocacy for legislation that modernized the regulation of PAs in the

state, and he assisted in establishing a successful collaborative relationship with the West Virginia Medical Professionals Health Program. Mr. Knittle represented the board throughout the development of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and he served as a Commissioner on the Compact Commission. His contributions extended well beyond his home state as he served on FSMB advisory groups and as a leader in Administrators in Medicine.



**James N. Thompson, MD**

Dr. Thompson served with much distinction as FSMB’s President and CEO from 2002 to 2008, leading the development of groundbreaking policies and programs that enhanced public protection and raised national awareness of the important role played by state medical boards in the nation’s health care. His efforts included leading the development of policy and educational resources to assist medical boards in promoting safe and effective treatment of pain; in 2008, he received a Presidential Medal of Honor from the American Pain Foundation for his body of work in support of responsible pain care. Dr. Thompson also strongly advocated for efforts to make it easier for physicians to practice across state lines, and he 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.

**John H. Clark, MD Leadership Award**

This award recognizes outstanding and exemplary leadership, commitment and contributions to advancing the public good at the state medical board level.



**Preston P. Nunnelley, MD**

Dr. Nunnelley served on the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure for a remarkable span of 24 years, making countless contributions to public protection during his distinguished tenure. Among his many roles with the board, he served as the board’s President for nearly a decade. Dr. Nunnelley’s passion for public protection was constant throughout his time on the board and his leadership abilities helped guide the board for many years. Whether it was leading the discussion over a licensure matter or testifying before numerous legislative committees on issues such as opioid abuse, Dr. Nunnelley’s leadership and level-headed demeanor brought people together for the common good. He is held in the highest regard throughout the state for his extraordinary contributions to medicine and patient safety.

**Richard E. Burney, MD**

Dr. Burney’s entire tenure on the Michigan board from 2008 to 2015 was exceptional, but it was his service as the board’s Chair during the last three years of his tenure in which he made particularly significant contributions. Among his many accomplishments, he developed and implemented a thorough and thoughtful orientation



process for incoming board members. He also renewed and strengthened relationships with the licensing, public health and attorney general's offices – greatly improving the timeliness of communications and resulting in much faster resolution of issues. Dr. Burney worked closely with the FSMB and fellow states to share best practices, joining the national conversation on important policy issues. His dedicated and determined leadership helped transform the Michigan board into a much more efficient and engaged body.

### **Award of Merit**

This award recognizes activities and contributions that positively impact and strengthen the profession of medical licensure and discipline, and help enhance public protection.



### **Gerard F. Dillon, PhD**

Dr. Dillon's long and invaluable connection with the medical regulatory community began with his first assignment at the National Board of Medical Examiners in 1974, when he worked as a psychometrician on the Federation Licensing Examination. He subsequently served as the lead psychometrician when FSMB and NBME developed the Special Purpose Examination to assess the knowledge of physicians changing states. Since the establishment of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) program more than 20 years ago, Dr. Dillon has worked closely with medical boards in many capacities, forming personal connections with board members and staff from nearly every state. His dedicated representation of the interests of state medical boards in the USMLE has made him an outstanding asset and friend to the Federation and the medical licensing community.



### **Carole Erickson**

As a public member of the Montana Board of Medical Examiners, Ms. Erickson has been a catalyst for positive change for the board, its stakeholders and the state's citizens – a quality she has demonstrated again and again since joining the board more than a decade ago. The board's positive relationships with key stakeholder groups can be directly attributed to her outstanding engagement and leadership skills. Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Erickson worked with board staff to identify inefficiencies in the physician application process, resulting in a streamlined system that significantly reduced application times. She also led the formation of the board's Outreach Committee, and served as its liaison to external groups.



**William E. Gotthold, MD**

Dr. Gotthold has made a significant and lasting impact on medical regulation through his selfless and dedicated service as a Board Commissioner on the Washington Medical Quality Assurance Commission for more than a decade. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Gotthold’s capstone project occurred when he applied his interest in competency and patient safety to the Commission’s work. In addition to other duties, he chaired the Commission’s maintenance of licensure workgroup, which was tasked with studying national trends, gaining stakeholder input and crafting an acceptable solution for the state’s 33,000 licensed physicians and physician assistants. The resulting rule revision created another pathway for physicians to satisfy maintenance of licensure requirements, streamlining the relicensure process while maintaining adequate patient protections – a fitting legacy for Dr. Gotthold as he helped advance the Commission’s mission of public protection.

***Journal of Medical Regulation Writing Awards***

These awards recognize outstanding contributions to the FSMB’s *Journal of Medical Regulation*.

**2017 Ray L. Casterline Award for Excellence in Writing**

Douglas James Murphy, MD, et al., were recognized for their article “Insightful Practice: A Method to Address a Gap in Medical Regulation” (Volume 101, Number 4).

**2017 Federation of State Medical Boards Award for Excellence in Editorial Writing**

Niall Dickson was recognized for this editorial, “The Challenges Facing Medical Regulation Across the Globe” (Volume 101, No. 3).

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**About the FSMB**

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) is a national non-profit organization representing all medical boards within the United States and its territories that license and discipline allopathic and osteopathic physicians and, in some jurisdictions, other health care professionals. The FSMB serves as the voice for state medical boards, supporting them through education, assessment, research and advocacy while providing services and initiatives that promote patient safety, quality health care and regulatory best practices. To learn more about FSMB, visit [www.fsmb.org](http://www.fsmb.org). You can also follow FSMB on Twitter (@theFSMB and @FSMBPolicy).