



For Immediate Release: April 23, 2024
Contact: Joe Knickrehm, (202) 601-7803
jknickrehm@fsmb.org; www.fsmb.org

Federation of State Medical Boards Announces 2024 Awards Recipients

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 23, 2024) – The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) announced the recipients of its 2024 awards, which recognize outstanding service and leadership in the field of medical regulation. The awards were presented on April 18 during FSMB's annual meeting in Nashville, TN.

Lifetime Achievement Award

This award is presented on rare occasions to individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary and sustained service and commitment to the field of medical licensure and discipline.

Arthur Hengerer, MD

Past Chair, Federation of State Medical Boards



Dr. Hengerer's distinguished record of service in medical regulation began in 2002 when he was appointed to the New York State Office of Professional Medical Conduct, which he went on to chair from 2012 to 2019. Dr. Hengerer was elected to FSMB's board of directors in 2011 and as chair in 2016.

At the beginning of his dynamic year as FSMB's Chair, Dr. Hengerer established several important workgroups, including a group to study Physician Wellness and Burnout that he also chaired over the course of two years. Dr. Hengerer subsequently became one of the nation's most passionate advocates for physician wellness, emphasizing that state medical boards should not expect a patient's health to be assured if the physician's health was not also assured.

The Workgroup on Physician Wellness and Burnout produced the most comprehensive policy document ever issued by FSMB, with specific recommendations for state medical boards as well as partner organizations. Dr. Hengerer's contributions have made a positive difference in the lives of thousands of patients, in the protection of the public at large, and in support of clinician well-being for countless health care professionals.

Leadership Award

This award recognizes outstanding and exemplary leadership, commitment and contribution in advancing the public good at the medical board level.

Alexander Gross, MD

Board Member, Georgia Composite Medical Board



Dr. Gross has worked tirelessly to protect patients since he was first appointed to the Georgia Composite Medical Board in 2008. Among his numerous contributions, Dr. Gross served as a member of FSMB's Workgroup on Physician Sexual Misconduct, helping craft the landmark policy unanimously adopted in 2020 that provided medical boards with new guidance to protect patients from sexual abuse by physicians. He subsequently played an instrumental role in advocating for the successful adoption of Georgia's groundbreaking Physician Sexual Misconduct Act in 2021, offering an excellent illustration of how to turn policy into practice.

Ahlani Quiogue

Executive Officer, Hawaii Medical Board



Ms. Quiogue's extensive experience in regulatory processes has been an invaluable asset for the medical board, licensees, and the citizens of Hawaii. She provides meaningful guidance during board meetings with skill, humility and transparency, adeptly assisting members with the integration of the board's medical knowledge base with applicable statutes. Working tirelessly behind the scenes, Ms. Quiogue played a key role in facilitating the legislation enabling Hawaii to become the 40th member of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact in 2023.

Dennis Smith, JD

Former Executive Director, Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine



Upon assuming leadership of the board in 2015, Mr. Smith undertook numerous initiatives to enhance patient safety and improve processes at the Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine. These efforts included removing potentially stigmatizing language from all licensing applications; participation in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact; modernizing the complaint and investigation processes; and establishing trauma-informed training for staff and board members. Mr. Smith's extraordinary tenure, which concluded with his retirement last year, greatly enhanced public protection

in Maine and deepened understanding of the board's mission by staff, board members, licensees and the public.

Award of Merit

This award recognizes an activity or contribution that has positively impacted and strengthened medical licensure and discipline and helped enhance public protection.

Shami Goyal, MD, MMM

Chief Medical Coordinator, Illinois State Medical Board



Dr. Goyal joined the board three years ago and, in that short time, has been a transformative leader. She has led several initiatives to improve efficiencies within the department; spearheaded the development of the medical board statewide newsletter; and generated processes to decrease the backlog of pending disciplinary cases, all while garnering widespread support from physician leaders and state officials.

Shelly Wang Bandago, MPA

Director, New York State Office of Professional Medical Conduct



Since joining the Office of Professional Medical Conduct in 2014, Ms. Wang Bandago's many achievements have included the implementation of a special unit to conduct more than 8,000 preliminary investigations a year to determine whether further investigation is warranted and a more robust training program for investigative staff. These initiatives decreased the backlog of cases by more than 20 percent, despite a scarcity of resources. A gifted communicator, Ms. Wang Bandago has built strong relationships with her staff, while also reaching out to related state agencies to improve collaborative opportunities.

George Zachos, JD

Executive Director, Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine



Among his many achievements at the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine, Mr. Zachos oversaw a series of initiatives that dramatically increased efficiencies and services to physicians. This included a new online licensing platform that vastly improved processing times. Previously, the board processed about 2,500 applications in 90 days; the board is now processing over 3,000 initial applications with a median processing time of less than 20 days. Throughout his career,

Mr. Zachos has distinguished himself not only as a leader, but as a devoted public servant and as a strong advocate for medical regulation.

About the Federation of State Medical Boards

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.

###