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## **Federation of State Medical Boards Announces 2015 Award Winners**

*FSMB Annual Awards recognize outstanding service to field of medical regulation*

(Eules, Texas, March 31, 2015) – The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) announced the recipients of its 2015 awards, which will be presented at the upcoming FSMB Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, April 25. Each year, the FSMB recognizes outstanding service and leadership to the field of medical regulation.

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes individuals of all backgrounds who have demonstrated extraordinary and sustained service and commitment to the field of medical licensure and discipline.



### **Don Melnick, MD, MACP**

Dr. Don Melnick's professional passion has been to define medicine's values through the standards of high-stakes assessments. He has dedicated his career to fulfilling the professional obligation of self-regulation, recognizing that assessment systems drive learning and behavior and provide potent tools for the profession to regulate itself in the best interests of patients. During his more than three decades of service to the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), Dr. Melnick has led developmental efforts culminating in several significant and enduring shifts in assessment: The creation of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE); the implementation of computer-based patient management simulation methods; and implementation of the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills Examination in 2004.

Appointed President and CEO of the NBME in 2000, Dr. Melnick is overseeing a new set of major initiatives, including the development of new tools for assessment of key professional attributes; development of effective systems for assessing ongoing physician competence; and the exploration of opportunities for international collaboration. He is currently preparing the NBME to enter a second century of service as the organization celebrates its centennial this year.

## Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service 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.



### **Bruce Hasenkamp, JD**

Bruce Hasenkamp made significant and long-lasting contributions to the infrastructure and financial strength of the FSMB during his dedicated service to the organization. He was elected to the FSMB Board of Directors in 1988 and served two full terms as treasurer during a period of rapid growth for the FSMB after its partnership with the National Board of Medical Examiners and the beginning of the USMLE. During his tenure as treasurer, the FSMB purchased the headquarters building the organization presently occupies in Euless, Texas, as well as a new computer system. He also was a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Medical Licensure and Discipline*, the USMLE Governing Board and the National Commission of Certification of Physician Assistants. Mr. Hasenkamp provided invaluable service as a public member of the Medical Board of California from 1987 to 1995, where he was elected to the positions of secretary, vice-president and president of the board.



### **Jerry Klepner**

Jerry Klepner is a specialist in health care, human services and labor relations issues. He was managing director of the Prime Policy Group health care practice for 13 years, and served as the FSMB's lobbyist in Washington, D.C., from 2004 to 2012. He was instrumental in helping the FSMB build relationships with key policymakers and stakeholders, including members of Congress, the Administration and health care organizations, and he worked to secure grants and legislation that support the mission of the FSMB and the state medical boards. These included telehealth grants that have supported the Federation Credentials Verification Service, the Uniform Application for Physician State Licensure and the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. Mr. Klepner strongly advocated for the establishment of a permanent FSMB office in Washington, D.C., and helped guide FSMB's leadership in developing and structuring the office and mentoring staff. In just five years, the FSMB Washington office has grown from one person to a seven-person team that has become an influential voice for state medical boards in our nation's capital.



### **Robert Leach, JD**

Robert Leach served the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice for 26 years, including 19 years as executive director – the longest serving board executive in the state since the late 1800s. During his tenure, he transitioned the board from reliance on “paper and pencil” processes to become a successful, technology user, creating greater openness and visibility to the public as well as increased efficiencies. Always looking for ways to stay

relevant and improve the practice of medical regulation, Mr. Leach was instrumental in advancing the Telemedicine Registration and countless other initiatives in Minnesota. He also successfully engaged the state legislature, such as when the Board underwent its mandated “sunsetting” and needed to justify its existence. Mr. Leach saw the Board through this process – so successfully that the legislature saw no need to make any changes to the Medical Practice Act. Mr. Leach also was very active in the FSMB, serving on the Board of Directors and USMLE committees.

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

The John H. Clark, MD Leadership Award recognizes outstanding and exemplary leadership, commitment and contribution to advancing the public good at the state medical board level.



### **Marilyn Pattison, MD**

Dr. Marilyn Pattison is a champion for hospice and palliative care in Washington who has influenced the practice of medicine nationally and internationally. The first hospice and palliative care physician to practice in a Washington hospital, she originated a question, “*Would you be surprised if the patient you are examining died the next year?*” that is used nationally for palliative care referrals and by the U.K.’s General Medical Council as a standard for referrals in their health system. Her work with the Washington Medical Quality Assurance Commission is no less notable, particularly her terms as chair in 2011 and 2012. Her work as co-author of the chronic non-cancer pain rules and leader of outreach efforts following their adoption by the Commission produced tangible results, significantly reducing prescribed opioids and overdose deaths in Washington. The rules were some of the first in the country and the only rules to focus on reducing prescribing levels as opposed to addressing the pill mill model.



### **Irvin Zeitler, DO**

Dr. Irvin Zeitler served 26 years as a member of the Texas Medical Board and nearly six years as board president – a tenure that spanned more than 350 board hearings. Dr. Zeitler provided full support to the expansion of the board’s outreach efforts to medical students, physician licensees, medical societies and hospitals in the belief that the best preventative to disciplinary action is physicians who are well informed about the state’s laws. As president, he helped lead passage of legislation establishing the Texas Physician Health Program, encouraging health professionals to seek early assistance for substance-abuse problems and other impairment issues. When the board undertook the arduous and complex task of revising the rules governing telemedicine practice in Texas, Dr. Zeitler played an integral role in ensuring that the numerous stakeholders had input to the process and were fully informed of the intent and impact of the revised rules.

## **Award of Merit**

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



### **Hedy Chang**

Hedy Chang has a long history of valuable and versatile service to the medical regulatory community on both the state and national levels. She served on the Medical Board of California for more than 10 years, including a term as board secretary and service on the board's Access to Care, Application Review, and Public Education committees. As chair of the board's Cultural and Linguistic Competency Workgroup, she oversaw an initiative seeking to include an element of CLC in all medical continuing education programs to help increase access to care for all patients in the state. Ms. Chang also has served in a variety of roles with the FSMB, including service as a member of the FSMB Board of Directors. She currently serves as treasurer of the FSMB Foundation.



### **Bruce Cullen, MD**

Dr. Bruce Cullen, a Professor Emeritus at the University of Washington, is a champion of applying Just Culture principles to medical discipline. Intrigued by the contrast of how we train residents and fellows with how similar mistakes are addressed by state medical boards, Dr. Cullen introduced several years ago a proposed Just Culture model for dealing with medical error complaints to the Washington Medical Quality Assurance Commission. This model focuses on examining the systems and training involved when an error occurs, rather than administering discipline simply due to the existence of an error. Through Dr. Cullen's persistence and education, the Commission adopted a Just Culture model for handling medical error complaints. Dr. Cullen is also leading a program focused on the early reporting of medical errors, root cause analysis, and direct and early involvement of the patient and family. Through his vision and diligence, the Commission is engaging practitioners in a process that could proactively lead to better patient outcomes.



### **Ken Simons, MD**

Dr. Ken Simons served as chair of the FSMB State Medical Boards Appropriate Regulation of Telemedicine Workgroup in 2013 and 2014. Under his leadership, the workgroup issued the groundbreaking "Model Policy for the Appropriate use of Telemedicine Technologies in the Practice of Medicine." The document defines telemedicine and provides critical guidance on several questions of state board and national interest, including how to define the physician-patient relationship, how to ensure privacy and security of records, and what constitutes adequate informed consent. Since its unanimous adoption in April 2014, the policy has been endorsed by prominent national health care

organizations, and has become an invaluable resource for state medical boards that have been dealing with telemedicine-related issues for years. Dr. Simons currently serves as chair of the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board.

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

The FSMB's writing awards recognize outstanding contributions to the FSMB's *Journal of Medical Regulation*.

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

"Approaching the Issue of the Aging Physician Population: Data and Survey Opinions on the Need for Age-Based Physician Competency Screening," by **Christine Y. Moutier, MD, David E.J. Bazzo, MD, and William A. Norcross, MD**

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

"Improving Physician Workforce Data: The Critical Role and Opportunity for the FSMB and State Medical Boards," by **Edward Salsberg, MPA, and Christina Hosenfeld, MPH**

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**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. FSMB leads by promoting excellence in medical practice, licensure and regulation as the national resource and voice on behalf of state medical boards in their protection of the public. To learn more about FSMB, visit: [www.fsmb.org/](http://www.fsmb.org/). You can also follow FSMB on Twitter (@theFSMB and @FSMBPolicy).