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*If you would like additional information
about the Committee on Senior Volunteer
Physicians and/or have comments on any
of these programs, please contact Erin
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(800) 322-2303, ext. 7413, or via e-mail
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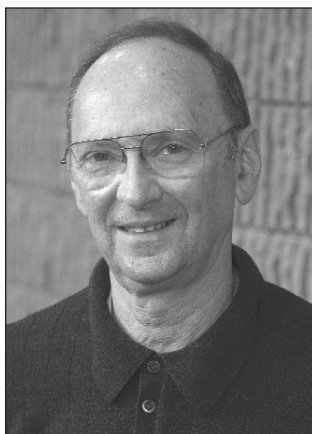
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THE PHYSICIAN VOLUNTEER

Harvey Clermont, M.D., Honored

2006 Senior Physician Volunteer of the Year



Harvey Clermont, M.D.

For the past ten years, the Massachusetts Medical Society's Committee on Senior Volunteer Physicians has honored a senior volunteer physician of the year. Candidates for this award are nominated by their peers and selected by the Committee on Senior Volunteer Physicians. Among the criteria considered for the award: Candidates must be MMS members, 60 years or older, and have demonstrated a commitment to volunteerism and

dedication to sharing experience and medical expertise with communities in Massachusetts. The recipient of the 2006 Senior Physician Volunteer of the Year Award is Harvey G. Clermont, M.D.

A graduate of Harvard Medical School and former U.S. Navy Medical Officer, Dr. Clermont is a general and vascular surgeon who has practiced in Worcester, Mass., since 1973. In addition to his private practice, he has been extremely generous in donating his time to help the underserved in both the local and global communities.

In 1980, Dr. Clermont founded and directed the east chapter of Heal the Children, an international organization that sends doctors to third-world countries. In 1986, Dr. Clermont founded the Children's Health Care and Nutritional Goals Through Education (CHANGE). This organization has brought sick and malnourished children from around the world to central Massachusetts, where they have been cared for by local families while receiving free medical aid.

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In the past ten years, Dr. Clermont has established and currently operates three free medical care programs in central Massachusetts, making health care services available to individuals and families with limited or no health insurance coverage who otherwise might not receive medical care. Dr. Clermont runs these programs in Shrewsbury, Hudson, and Millbury with an all-volunteer medical staff that includes doctors, dentists, nurses, social workers, medical students, and pharmacists. Dr. Clermont has received equipment and medical supplies for these sites through generous donations by hospitals, medical practices, and individuals. The patient population includes Brazilians, Chinese, and others who are offered translation services when volunteer translators are available. These sites thrive today with Dr. Clermont and his staff averaging about 100 patient visits per week.

The Massachusetts Medical Society is pleased to recognize Harvey G. Clermont, M.D., as the 2006 Senior Physician Volunteer of the Year.

Congratulations!

Tufts Health Plans Award Health Center Program \$10,000 Grant

Volunteer physicians provide essential, charitable medical care to the uninsured and underinsured in Massachusetts through the Committee on Senior Volunteer Physicians' Health Center Program. For the past two years, the Committee has received a \$5,000 grant from Tufts Health Plan in order to expand this program. Tufts Health Plan's Community Partnerships Program recently increased its funding to \$10,000 for the upcoming year, recognizing the critical need for the services these volunteers provide.

Anne Marie Boursiquot King, manager of community partnerships and volunteerism at Tufts Health Plan, said, "We are pleased to support the Health Center Program because it provides access to care for the at-risk and underserved in many of our communities across the state."

The program, first established in 1997, provides liability insurance to retired physicians and other physicians no longer engaged in clinical practice so

they can deliver services to patients at free health care clinics across the state. Massachusetts law stipulates that all physicians who participate in free-care programs must be licensed and have malpractice insurance; however, the high cost of insurance premiums can be a deterrent to volunteering for physicians no longer in practice. To address this barrier, the MMS forged an agreement with ProMutual Group, the largest professional liability insurance carrier in the state, whereby the carrier offers limited liability insurance policies to retired physicians who agree to provide care without reimbursement.

Due to the 2004 Tufts grant, the number of retired volunteer physicians participating in the free-care program rose by seven, to an all-time high of 35. Collectively, these physicians provide approximately 440 hours of free health care each month at 18 locations. The cities and towns they serve span the Bay State and include Boston, Hyannis, Falmouth, Whitinsville, Worcester, Leverett, Hudson, Shrewsbury, Shutesbury, Waltham, and Great Barrington.

For more information about the Health Center Program, contact Erin Tally at (800) 322-2303, ext. 7413, or etally@mms.org.

Health Center Program Spotlight

MMS and IMANE Collaborate

The Indian Medical Association of New England (IMANE), along with the India Society of Worcester, opened the Free Health Stop in Shrewsbury this past fall. This clinic supplies needed health care for the underserved and uninsured in that area.

Open every Wednesday, the site provides acute care for non-emergency medical problems and information on health and diet topics. Consultants in various medical subspecialties are available, and issues related to bone density and dental care are addressed. There is no charge for the services, and anyone who wishes to take advantage of the services is welcome irrespective of their financial, immigration, and insurance status.

This program is made possible with the support of volunteer physicians, social workers, dieticians, and members of the India Society of Worcester who help staff the facility.

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IMANE also partners with the Waltham Area Free Health Center to provide much-needed free health services to patients lacking health insurance in the greater Waltham region. IMANE's involvement commits a strong base of physician volunteers, a referral system for specialist consultations, and help with administrative and financial issues.

Through the support of the MMS Committee on Senior Volunteer Physicians Health Center Program, funding for professional liability insurance for volunteer physicians at both of these sites has been provided. Additional funding is available through the Committee for physician volunteers who meet the Health Center Program guidelines. For more information about the Health Center Program, please contact Erin Tally at (800) 322-2303, ext. 7413, or etally@mms.org. For more information about IMANE, please contact Julie Kealey at (800) 322-2303, ext. 7317, or jkealey@mms.org.

Volunteer Surveillance Corps Seeks Physicians for Preparedness Project

The Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) is currently seeking physician volunteers for a new preparedness project, supported by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), called the Volunteer Surveillance Corps (VSC). The purpose of the VSC is to maximize the state's ability to respond to infectious disease by increasing physician vigilance and improving the reporting of symptoms and conditions that could indicate an emerging disease threat or bioterrorism.

Enhanced surveillance and reporting allows the state department of health to recognize and respond to disease threats sooner. The VSC wants all physicians to realize the key role they play as an early warning system. Physicians are trained to be observant and can often figure out the cause of a budding infection before a lab test. Early detection of disease increases the effectiveness of treatment and the ability to control the spread of infection — whether natural or manmade.

Volunteers may be actively practicing or retired, and the time commitment is flexible. Free training and support are also provided. VSC physicians can choose from a variety of activities designed to educate colleagues within their local community about the

importance of surveillance and reporting to public health officials. In addition, VSC members provide feedback about physician experiences and concerns regarding the reporting system. In an emergency, the VSC may also be asked to collect or disseminate critical information on behalf of the MDPH.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Vanessa Kenealy, VSC Project Coordinator, at (781) 434-7319 or vkenealy@mms.org.

Physician Volunteer Fair

The seventh annual Physician Volunteer Fair will allow physicians an opportunity to meet with representatives from a variety of volunteer organizations to explore the many ways to donate time, energy, and expertise in local communities or around the world.



Thursday, May 11, 2006, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Seaport Hotel, Boston

To register, please call (800) 322-2303, ext. 7206.

New Members Welcome on the Committee

The Committee on Senior Volunteer Physicians is actively seeking new members. The mission of the Committee is to utilize the experience and skills of senior and/or retired physicians to fulfill medical and health education needs of communities and populations throughout Massachusetts via one of its three established programs:

Health Center. This program makes it possible for licensed and insured volunteer physicians to provide health care to uninsured and underserved populations, in large part through its provision of professional liability insurance.

Mentorship. Working in collaboration with the Boston University School of Medicine, the mentorship program enables volunteer physicians to serve as facilitators for courses offered to first- and second-year medical students via its Integrated Problems Course. Other mentorship programs are available as well.

Education Outreach. The Committee has explored various opportunities for retired physicians to volunteer their time in the Massachusetts public school system. The Committee, for instance, has collaborated with Northeastern University's Project RE-SEED (Retirees Enhancing Science Education through Experiments & Demonstrations). This program prepares individuals with science backgrounds to assist middle school teachers with the teaching of science and math.

Meetings are held approximately every six weeks on Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. at the Massachusetts Medical Society's Headquarters in Waltham. Please contact Erin Tally at (800) 322-2303, ext. 7413, or etally@mms.org if you are interested in attending a meeting.

Massachusetts Society for Medical Research Seeks Volunteers

Every research program that uses animals is required by federal law to have an institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC). The IACUC oversees all animal care, husbandry, veterinary care, and research protocols. The composition of each IACUC includes a veterinarian specially qualified in laboratory animal medicine,

researchers with significant animal-use experience, a professional who is fundamentally non-research-oriented (often a lawyer or ethicist), and at least one community member, who represents the interests of the community in good, humane, and responsible animal care and use. The community member is also referred to as the non-affiliated member and may have no financial connection to the institution directly or through a family member.

Depending upon the size of the institution, an IACUC meets as often as monthly or as infrequently as twice per year (the minimum required by regulation). In addition to overseeing husbandry and reviewing protocols, the IACUC also inspects the animal facilities twice each year to assure good ongoing animal care.

Many IACUCs are managed by professional compliance regulation officers, and many offer good training for new IACUC members.

Anyone with an interest in medical science and animals is a possible candidate for community member in an IACUC. The key characteristics are commitment of time, curiosity, desire to learn, and willingness to question. The rewards are firsthand insight into the biomedical research process, a good feeling about protecting animals, and the pleasure of working with smart, dedicated people. IACUCs generally cover parking and travel expenses for community members and often provide a meal, but there is usually no other compensation. If you are interested in learning more, please visit www.msmr.org/links_iacuc.html.