

A compilation of news, significant awards, and accomplishments about Permanente physicians and the Permanente Medical Groups.

Physician News Roundup

Kaiser Permanente Wins Top National Disease Management Award

The Disease Management Association of America (DMAA) has awarded Kaiser Permanente (KP) the American Healthways Health Plan Disease Management Leadership Award, the most sought-after award for managed care organizations. This award recognizes a health plan that has demonstrated leadership and innovation in disease management on a level that has significantly helped to shape the industry.

According to Warren Todd, DMAA Executive Director, "The Awards committee unanimously recognized Kaiser Permanente's Care Management Institute as a program that has raised the standard of excellence across the country through the integration of physician and nonclinical staff collaboration driven by evidence-based guidelines to develop an outcomes-oriented program that continues to improve the lives of patients with heart disease and diabetes."

The award is given for innovation, leadership, outcomes-based orientation, and impact in the industry.

KP Wins Top Ratings in NCQA Report

Six Kaiser Permanente Regions were awarded top rankings in the 2003 *State of Health Care Quality report*, released by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). An independent, nonprofit organization that measures the quality of the nation's health care, NCQA accredits health plans and serves as a resource for purchasers, regulators, and consumers.

In the report, KP Colorado ranked among the top ten health plans in the nation in effectiveness of care and was ranked among the top five health plans in the Mountain Region. KP also dominated the Pacific Region's top five with KP's Northern California, Southern California, Northwest, and Hawaii Regions in the rankings. KP Georgia was among the top five in the Southern Atlantic Region.

The *State of Health Care Quality* report is based on an analysis of health plan performance measures from NCQA's Quality Compass 2003, a database of performance information from several hundred organizations providing health care coverage to more than 71 million Americans. Out of approximately 500 health

plans in the country, about 260 let the public know their quality data. All data are independently audited.

HHS Secretary Appoints Care Management Institute Executive Director to Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality National Advisory Council

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G Thompson recently named nine new members to the National Advisory Council for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). One of the newly named members is Paul Wallace, MD, Executive Director of the Care Management Institute.



Paul Wallace, MD

The council is comprised of 21 members from the private sector and 8 ex-officio members from other federal health agencies.

"These nine new members will bring a wide range of experience and provide the right balance to advise AHRQ on its policy direction and research portfolio," Secretary Thompson said. "Their leadership will continue to help the agency achieve our goal of providing safe, high-quality health care for all Americans."

The other eight new council members are:

- Andrew Balas, MD, PhD, Dean, School of Public Health, St. Louis University, St Louis, MO.
- Doug Campos-Outcalt, MPA, Medical Director, Maricopa County Department of Public Health, Phoenix, AZ.
- Michael Everett, PhD, Founder and CEO, Avatar International, Inc, Lake Mary, FL.
- Andrew Fishman, MD, Cogent Healthcare, Inc, Los Angeles, CA.
- Arthur Garson, MD, MPH, Dean, School of Medicine, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.
- Jessie Gruman, PhD, President and Executive Director, Center for the Advancement of Health, Washington, DC.
- Terry Jacobson, MD, Director, Office of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Grady Health Systems, Atlanta, GA.
- James J Rohack, MD, Senior Staff Cardiologist, Scott and White Clinic, Temple, TX.

By Barbara Caruso, BA



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Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group (MAPMG)

Governor Ehrlich Appoints MAPMG Physicians to State Board of Physicians

Maryland Governor Robert L Ehrlich, Jr, recently appointed 2 KP physicians to a newly formed 21-member State Board of Physicians. Ruth A Robinson, MD, a family practice physician and Executive Director of the Annapolis Medical Center, and Carol Samuel-Botts, MD, a pediatrician at the Largo Medical Center, were among

more than 100 physicians who applied for consideration. The State Board of Physicians tests and licenses physicians to practice medicine in Maryland. The Board also determines the eligibility of physicians to represent themselves as specialists. For certain causes, the Board may revoke the license of any physician.

Governor Ehrlich also appointed a Kaiser Permanente pharmacist to a three-year term as a member of the Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Donald Yee, Supervisor of Pharmacy Hospitalists at the Reston Medical Center, is also currently serving his second four-year term as Commissioner on the Maryland State Board of Pharmacy.



Ruth A Robinson, MD



Carol Samuel-Botts, MD

Southern California Permanente Medical Group (SCPMG)

San Diego Magazine Highlights San Diego Doctors Selected by Colleagues as "The Best"

This month's edition of *San Diego Magazine* highlighted San Diego area physicians for being the best at what they do. Thirteen SCPMG physicians were among those selected. The list is based on the national "Best Doctors" survey.

Each year, Best Doctors Inc surveys approximately 30,000 physicians in 40 medical specialties across the country and asks them one very important question: "If you or a loved one needed a doctor in your specialty and you couldn't treat them yourself, to whom would you refer them?"

Only doctors who have been selected previously for the list are eligible to nominate new physicians. Once nominated, a physician is able to comment (confidentially) on the other doctors listed in their specialty and to make additional nominations. The survey avoids bias through its large voting pool and through regional polling. This year, more than 4000 physicians were polled in the San Diego region.

SCPMG physicians selected by their peers as being "The Best" in San Diego include: Noah Friedman, MD, Allergy; Sandra Christensen, MD, Allergy; Michael Mellon, MD, Allergy; Michael Schatz, MD, Allergy; James Dudl, MD, Endocrinology; Stephen Gordon, MD, Endocrinology; Eric Blau, MD, Preventive Medicine; Charles Hamori, MD, Preventive Medicine; Dale Lieu, MD, Infectious Disease; Jeffrey Stork, MD, Internal Medicine; William Devor, MD, Neurology; Robert Clemons, MD, Pediatrics; and Robert Hye, MD, General Surgery.

Barbara Caruso compiled this material from *California Wire*, *Partner News*, and other PMG newsletters and sources. To submit news of physician or PMG awards and recognitions, contact Ms Caruso at barbara.caruso@kp.org.