KP Aging Network Physician Named to National Alzheimer's Association Board

Richard D Della Penna, MD, CMI's National Elder Care Clinical Lead and Director of the Kaiser Permanente (KP) Aging Network, has been appointed to the National Board of the Alzheimer's Association. Dr Della Penna states that his selection to be on the Board was in recognition of KP's long-term efforts to improve the quality and outcomes of care for members with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their families. KP's efforts with regard to and approaches to dementia care have been heralded by the Association as a “Model for the Nation’s Health Care System.” Fellow directors include: Princess Aga Khan, Nancy Reagan, David Hyde Pierce, clinicians working to improve the quality of care of people with dementia, and scientists dedicated to unraveling the causes and eventual prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and family members of people who have had the disease. The Association's mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research to provide care and support for those affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through brain health.

KP Clinicians Named as Delegates to White House Conference on Aging

A number of KP clinicians were named and participated as At-Large delegates to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA). The conference makes recommendations to the President and Congress to help guide national aging policies for the next ten years and beyond.

KP Executives on 100 Most Powerful List

Modern Healthcare magazine recently released its fourth annual ranking of the 100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare, naming George Halvorson, Chairman and CEO, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals (KFHP/H), number 68, and Benjamin Chu, MD, President, KFHP/H Southern California Region, number 73.

Southern California Permanente Medical Group (SCPMG)

Goldsmith Scholarship Awarded to Future Physicians for Advancing Equal Care

SCPMG awarded seven Southern California medical students the second annual KP Oliver Goldsmith, MD, Scholarship for the Promotion and Advancement of Culturally Responsive Care. The Goldsmith Scholarship celebrates students’ efforts to improve the health care of underserved communities while raising awareness to the unique medical issues that affect ethnic minorities. Award winners receive a $5000 scholarship, mentoring from a KP clinician, and a clinical rotation at a KP facility. The seven recipients are: Jose Avalos, Shabnam Besimanto, Candace Jones, Kristen Ochoa, Kameelah Phillips, Eric Sandoval, and Candace Taylor.

Physician Receives Award for Educating Divers

Matthew Berry, MD, was awarded the Charlie Brown Memorial Award by the National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI). Dr Berry is a KP Resource Physician for Underwater and Hyperbaric Medicine and practices Emergency Medicine at the West Los Angeles Medical Center. Last awarded in 1997, the Charlie Brown Memorial award is given for volunteer service to the diving community. Dr Berry received the award in recognition of his community service in educating divers and physicians on diving safety and field treatment of diving injuries. Founded in 1959, NAUI is the oldest dive training and certifying organization in the world, and has trained millions of divers worldwide.

KP Southern California Earns Top Ranking in California Health Plan Report Card

KP’s Southern California Region (KPSC) earned the top rating in the 2005 HMO Quality Report from the California Office of the Patient Advocate (OPA). KPSC was the only health plan to earn two excellent or three-star ratings. KPSC also led the way in clinical quality, with 11 top scores in the 29 clinical measures cited in...
the report. KPSC was the only health plan in California to rate good or excellent in all four categories measured by the OPA report card and was the only health plan to rate two stars or good in the category, Care for Staying Healthy.

The Permanente Medical Group (TPMG)

California HealthCare Foundation Announces Fellows for Health Care Leadership Program

Three KP clinicians were selected by the California HealthCare Foundation (CHCF) to participate as Health Care Leadership Program fellows. The three KP clinicians are Rajan Bhandari, MD, Santa Teresa Medical Center, Moses D Elam, MD, Central Valley, and Diane Hildebrandt, BSN, Napa Medical Offices. The program helps talented professionals acquire the skills needed to positively influence health care policy and delivery in California.

Physicians Receive TPMG Research and Teaching Awards

Four TPMG physicians received research and teaching awards for their exemplary efforts in these areas: Nazir Habib, MD, Vallejo, was recognized for his instrumental role in bringing Fundamentals of Critical Care Support (FCCS) Certification to HBS physicians. John Husokowski, MD, Oakland, was recognized for his contributions to the Oakland KP Ob/Gyn Residency Program. Randy Bergen, MD, Walnut Creek, was recognized for his research he conducted that established the safety of cold-adapted trivalent intranasal influenza virus vaccine (CAIV) in children over three years of age and adolescents. Donald Dyson, MD, Santa Clara, was recognized for his prolific and highly regarded research contributions over the past 20 years, particularly in the field of maternal-fetal medicine.

The Southeast Permanente Medical Group (TSPMG)

Red Cross Philos Award Presented to KP of Georgia

KP of Georgia received the prestigious Philos Award from the Volunteer Council Committee of the American Red Cross’ Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter. KP was honored for its significant financial contributions and for its sponsorship of CPR Saturday.

Colorado Permanente Medical Group (CPMG)

5280 Magazine Names 18 KP “Top Doctors”

Congratulations to the 18 KP physicians who were named to the annual list of Denver’s top doctors in 5280 Magazine. The top 250 honorees were selected by their peers, via a random survey of 4000 metro area doctors. The 18 CPMG physicians were: Jandel Allen-Davis, MD; William Bentley, MD; Tim Collins, MD; Royal Gerow, MD; Richard Hathaway, MD; James Jacobs, MD; Elizabeth Kincannon, MD; Richard Koken, MD; Janet Kuhns, MD; Chris Lang, MD; Jean Milofsky, MD; Nora Morgenstern, MD; David Mulica, MD; Mark Rhine, MD; Elizabeth Sofian, MD; Sophia Symko, MD; Edward Vaughn; and John Williams, MD.

Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group (MAPMG)

MAS KFHP President Honored as Influential Women Executive

Marilyn Kawamura, President of KFHP, Inc Mid-Atlantic States Region, was chosen as one of Washington’s Women Who Mean Business 2005. This list honors the Region’s most influential and powerful women executives as selected by the Washington Business Journal.

MAS Named Top Quality Health Plan in Maryland

For the third year in a row, KP Mid-Atlantic States received more Star Performer and Above Average scores than any other participating HMO and POS plan in the State of Maryland, according to Measuring the Quality of HMO and POS Plans: Consumer Guide, released by the Maryland Health Care commission. KP was named a Star Performer in 10 categories, 6 more Star Performer measures than the next best health plan, and Above Average in 15 categories, 7 more than the next highest scoring health plan.

Barbara Caruso compiled this material from KFH and PMG newsletters and regional KP Web sites. To submit news of physician or PMG awards and recognitions, contact Ms Caruso at barbara.caruso@kp.org.