



HCMS
Harris County Medical Society

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HCMS/HAM Announce John P. McGovern Compleat Physician Award

HOUSTON -- Jan. 28, 2019 – The Harris County Medical Society (HCMS) and the Houston Academy of Medicine (HAM) named Dr. Richard Allen Williams as the winner of the John P. McGovern Compleat Physician Award during the HCMS/HAM Installation of Officers & Leadership Recognition ceremony held Jan. 17, 2020. Dr. Williams is the first African American recipient of the award.

This annual national award, named after its first recipient, John P. McGovern, recognizes the physician who embodies the ideals of Sir William Osler -- medical excellence, humane and ethical care, commitment to medical humanities and writing, research, and harmony between the academic and medical practitioner.

Dr. Williams' commitment to excellence is demonstrated by his continued contributions to the field of cardiology. He excelled as a clinician in his 50 years of medical practice. He is a renowned cardiologist who founded the Association of Black Cardiologist and is the first African American to be selected to as a full professor at the University of California Los Angeles Department of Medicine.

After graduating from Harvard University with honors, attending medical school at State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, performing an internship at UC San Francisco Medical Center, and a residency at USC Medical Center, he developed a legendary renown in the area of the clinical practice of Cardiology at Harvard Medical School, UCLA School of Medicine, and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital in Watts, California and rose to become head of Cardiology at the West Los Angeles VA Hospital in the UCLA system based on his outstanding clinical capabilities.

In 2016, he was selected to serve as the 117th president of the National Medical Association, the world's largest primarily black physician medical organization with 40,000 members. Additionally, he was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from Harvard Medical School for promoting diversity, inclusion, and equity at the Medical School. He also earned the Distinguished Award for Leadership in Diversity and Inclusion in 2019 by the American College of Cardiology.

Dr. Williams is considered an international expert on hypertension, healthcare disparities, dyslipidemia, diabetes, obesity, heart failure, and sudden cardiac death. He was recently honored by the American Heart Association from which he received the prestigious LifeSaver Award.

Dr. Williams' contributions have not been limited to the field of cardiology. He has also shown his philanthropic side by participating in National Medical Fellowships and by establishing three separate scholarship funds in his name to benefit African American medical students across the country. His 1974 book, *Textbook of Black-Related Diseases*, was accepted into the museum collection of the Smithsonian Institution. His new book, *Blacks in Medicine* will be published this year.

Past recipients of the Award are Dr. Raymond Scalettar (1994), Dr. Ernest W. Johnson (1995), Dr. Donald W. Chapman (1996), Dr. Theodore E. Woodward (1997), Dr. Charles D. Sherman (1998), Dr. Michael E. DeBakey (1999), Dr. Victor A. McKusick (2000), Dr. W. Walter Menninger (2001), Dr. Robert L. DuPont (2002), Dr. Denton A. Cooley (2003), Dr. John P. Strong (2004), Dr. John P. Bilezikian (2005), Dr. Kathleen M. Foley (2006), Dr. Ralph E. Feigin (2007), Dr. Stanley Appell (2008), Dr. Richard J. O'Reilly

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(2009), Dr. Raymond H. Kaufman (2010), Dr. Dev A. GnanaDev (2011), Dr. Richard P. Wenzel (2012), Dr. Walter J. Pories (2013), Dr. Samuel L. Katz (2014), Dr. Allen B. Weisse (2015), Dr. William Schaffner (2016), Dr. Herbert L. Fred (2017), Dr. David K.C. Cooper (2018) and Dr. Frederick Grover (2019)

About HCMS

HCMS, established in 1903, is the professional society for physicians in Harris County. It is the largest county medical society in the nation, with a membership of more than 11,000 physicians and medical students. Its mission is to be the leading advocate for its member physicians, their patients and the community, in promoting the highest standards of ethical medical practice, access to quality medical care, medical education, research, and community health. In 1915, HCMS incorporated the Houston Academy of Medicine to support the community service, education, scientific and charitable programs for physicians, their patients, and the community at large in Harris County.

About HAM

The Houston Academy of Medicine (HAM) was incorporated by the HCMS in February 1915 to establish a medical library. HAM is the scientific and charitable [501 (c) (3)] organization of the physicians who make up the membership of HCMS and provide community health education. The HCMS Executive Board also serves at the Board of Trustees, the governing body of HAM. The four HCMS members-at-large serve as the officers of HAM, with the senior member-at-large serving as president.

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Attachment:

Compleat Award Presentation.jpg

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