The South Dakota American College of Physicians is pleased to announce its 2022 Awards



Early Career Physician of the Year Eric Chow, MD

This award honors an internist who is practicing in the state of South Dakota and is within sixteen years of graduation from medical school. The recipient demonstrates the ideals of the profession and maintains an active role in the SD ACP.

Dr. Eric Chow graduated from University of Hawaii Manoa with a B.A. in Biology. Afterwards he graduated from Loma Linda University School of Medicine in 2009 and completed a Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics Residency at the University of California in San Diego (2009-2013). Dr. Chow began practice on Oahu, Hawaii as a primary care physician and moved to Huron, South Dakota in 2016 to practice rural medicine at a critical access hospital. In 2019, he joined Monument Health in Rapid City as a hospitalist where he currently works. Dr. Chow is passionate about medical education and has always partnered with local medical schools as a teacher. Currently Dr. Chow is an Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of South Dakota, Sanford school of Medicine serving as a teacher to Pillar-2 and Pillar-3 students as well as representing Rapid City on the Sanford School of Medicine Medical Education Committee. He and his wife, Irene, have three children: Micah (8), Matthew (6), and Melody (4). In his free time he enjoys teaching his children music, hiking outdoors, and traveling with his family.



Teacher of the Year Bruce Eaton, MD

This award honors a member who exemplifies talent, enthusiasm, and professionalism in medical education. The recipient may demonstrate excellence in education at the medical student, graduate or continuing education level.

Dr. Eaton is a 1989 graduate of the University Of Minnesota School Of Medicine, and completed his residency in internal medicine at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He completed a year of critical care medicine at Hennepin County Medical Center as well. He subsequently practiced in Cheboygan, Michigan for 3 1/2 years and then moved to Rapid City, South Dakota where he has practiced since 1997.

He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians. He has practiced traditional internal medicine, and both inpatient and outpatient medicine until 2 years ago. Since then, he has focused on hospital medicine. Throughout his career, he has enjoyed teaching medical students. He is married to his lovely wife, Jennifer, and has 3 daughters, Allison, Anna, and Abigail. He enjoys running (when not injured!), photography, and growing giant pumpkins.

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Laureate Award Randall Lamfers, MD FACP

This award honors Fellows or Masters of ACP who have demonstrated by their example and conduct an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, or research, and in service to their community, their Chapter and the American College of Physicians.

Randall B. Lamfers, MD FACP, a native of Belmond, Iowa, received his undergraduate degree from Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, before earning his M.D. degree from the University of Missouri – Columbia School of Medicine in 2002. He completed his Internal Medicine Residency training in 2005 and subsequently served as a chief resident at the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Dr. Lamfers joined Sanford Health as a Hospitalist and the USD Sanford School of Medicine as Assistant Professor in 2006. Since then, South Dakota has significantly benefitted from his commitment to excellent patient care, service, and teaching. He has been active in ACP since 2000 and in the SD ACP Chapter since 2006. He was recognized as the SD ACP Early Career Physician of the Year in 2013. Through his ACP work, he has actively participated in the Annual Scientific Meeting, including moderating sessions, presenting cases, and organizing trainee poster presentations. He has served on the SD ACP Executive Committee since 2018 and has been a ready and willing volunteer as any needs arise. Dr. Lamfers was elected to ACP Fellowship in 2019.

Colleagues recognize Dr. Lamfers as a skillful diagnostician, advocate for healthcare quality improvement, and trusted leader. He served as the Sanford Health Sioux Falls Region Hospitalist Program Director from 2010 to 2014 and as the Director of Quality and Residency Education for the Hospitalist Program from 2014 to the present. In 2015, he assumed the role of Director of Quality Education for USD Sanford School of Medicine Graduate Medical Education. In this role, he created a 2-day interactive seminar to train residents in quality improvement and patient safety. He has also overseen the longitudinal education of residents through hands-on quality improvement projects. Additionally, he actively serves on the Clinical Decision Support, Quality Council, and Hospitalist Executive Advisor Committee at Sanford Health.

There is a consistent theme throughout Dr. Lamfers' career: his role as an educator. Beginning with his work as a chief resident, he has had an unwavering commitment to educating and mentoring students and residents. He was awarded the 2015 USD Sanford School of Medicine Chair Award for his work in the Internal Medicine Residency core faculty. He was also awarded the SD ACP Teacher of the Year Award in 2017. In 2018, Dr. Lamfers became the Associate Internal Medicine Residency Director. He is active in the full spectrum of teaching, from hands-on bedside education to mentoring trainees' scholarly projects to administering the residency program. In 2019, he was selected as a member of the National Board of Medical Examiners Patient Safety Test Material Development Committee. In all these positions, colleagues see him as a role model physician, teacher, and colleague.

Dr. Lamfers and his wife, Rachel Lamfers, have two children, Ethan and Noah. They reside in Sioux Falls, SD.

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