

Volunteerism Award
Tina Melanson, MD, FACP



I graduated with a bachelor of science degree from Boston University and then from the University of South Dakota (USD) School of Medicine with my doctorate degree in 1997. I did an internal medicine residency with the USD School of Medicine in Sioux Falls—with Dr. Larson! I then moved to Vermont to do a 2-year nephrology fellowship in Burlington. I am currently Board-certified in internal medicine and nephrology. After completing fellowship, I moved to Sioux Falls in 2002 and joined Avera McKennan Hospital in their nephrology department where I was employed for 9 years under my mentors, Drs. Edward Zawada and Robert Santella.

In 2011, I moved back to my hometown of Watertown, SD, and took over the nephrology practice there. I am the Director of dialysis units managed by Prairie Lakes in Watertown and Sisseton and of the dialysis unit in Huron, SD. I specialize in patients who have chronic kidney disease, including those with end-stage renal disease receiving dialysis, kidney transplants, and acute kidney injuries. I also specialize in hypertension management as well as heart failure management.

I have been a steadfast supporter of the National Kidney Foundation since around 2005 and would work with them to organize local kidney walks to raise money for increased awareness of chronic kidney disease. However, after a particularly successful walk where we raised \$65,000, I saw all of that money go to Minneapolis and our community did not see a single cent. At that point in 2015, a friend and I cofounded a charity called the Lake Area Kidney Endowment (LAKE). This charity is 100% for the community. We raise money to donate services and money to patients with kidney disease in need who live in the general area of Northeast South Dakota and Eastern Minnesota.

Since 2016, our little charity has donated \$171,000 to patients and families in need—I actually just learned this total! Some of these needs include gas money for transportation to appointments and dialysis and assistance with coverage of expensive medications, rent, heating bills, clothing (especially winter clothing), groceries, and outstanding bills that impair further care for the patients. We have also given larger grants to patients who are about to receive kidney transplants as this is quite an expensive ordeal. We fundraise with a single golf tournament every year in June.



Teacher of the Year Award
Mohammad Ahmed, MD, MBBS

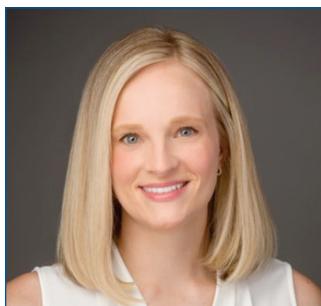


I have always had a passion for teaching. After graduating medical school, I taught at my alma mater as faculty for a year. After starting residency, I remained involved with the medical school and teaching.

After graduating, I went on to become core faculty with the internal medicine residency;

eventually, I was fortunate enough to become the POCUS Director for our internal medicine residency. I have also had the privilege of serving on the GME Committee and the MD Admissions Committee.

Early Career Physician of the Year Award
Martha Holstein, MD, FACP



Martha Holstein, MD, FACP, practices at Yankton Medical Clinic in Yankton, SD, as an internal medicine-pediatrics primary care physician caring for patients of all ages, particularly enjoying the transition from pediatric to adult care. She additionally serves as Medical Director of the Majestic Bluffs long-term care facility. She

mentors medical students as the Internal Medicine Pillar 2 Advisor for the Yankton campus at the Sanford School of Medicine at the University of South Dakota. She completed residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE, after graduation from the Sanford School of Medicine at the University of South Dakota. She is a proud Jackrabbit and graduate of South Dakota State University.

Laureate Award
Michael Wilde, MD, FACP



Dr. Mike Wilde is the recipient of the Laureate Award from the South Dakota Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP) for 2025. Dr. Wilde completed medical school and internal medicine residency at the Sanford School of Medicine and started his general internal medicine practice in 2001.

Dr. Wilde has been involved in medical student and resident education since the beginning of his career. He served as core faculty for the Sanford School of Medicine Internal Medicine Residency Program and received multiple teaching awards.

Dr. Wilde has served on the Finance Committee for the University of South Dakota (USD) Residency Corporation since 2013. He attained Fellowship in the College in 2009 and has been active in ACP throughout his career. He is currently Governor-elect (depending on the timing of the vote) and has served as Vice Governor for the past year. He has been on the Leadership Council for the South Dakota ACP Chapter for many years. Previously, Dr. Wilde served as Chief Medical Officer at Sanford USD Medical Center from 2013 to 2024 until accepting his current role as Chief Physician at Sanford USD Medical Center. He has led peer review and quality and safety initiatives at Sanford Health over the last decade.