

The South Dakota American College of Physicians is pleased to  
announce its 2017 Award Winners

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**Early Career Physician of the Year**  
**Catherine "Cassie" Hajek, 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.*

Catherine "Cassie" Hajek, MD, graduated from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor with a Master's degree in industrial engineering and worked for Boston Consulting Group for two years before deciding to attend medical school. After graduating from USD Sanford School of Medicine in Vermillion in 2008, she completed her Internal Medicine residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, NY in 2011. Following several clinical positions in New York, NY, Dr. Hajek joined Sanford Adult Medicine Clinic in Sioux Falls in 2012. In 2014, Dr. Hajek took a leave from her practice to pursue a medical genetics fellowship at the Cedars-Sinai/UCLA Intercampus Medical Genetics Program in Los Angeles, CA. Following the fellowship, she returned to Sanford and now serves as the Director, Medical Genetics Education and Clinical Services in Imagenetics at Sanford Health and as Academic Assistant Professor at USD Sanford School of Medicine. Dr. Hajek enjoys teaching and mentoring medical students and residents. She participates in research studies and currently serves as the co-investigator for a study at LA Biomed Institute for Translation Genomics and Population Sciences in Los Angeles, CA.

Dr. Hajek has been active in the SD ACP as moderator and presenter at the annual scientific meetings. She currently serves as chair of the Early Career Physicians committee.

Cassie enjoys spending time with her husband, Matt, and their two-year-old son, Jack. They engage in a variety of outdoor activities together, including hiking, biking, and walking. She also enjoys cooking and entertaining.



**Teacher of the Year**  
**Randall Lamfers, 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.*

Randall Lamfers, MD is a native of Belmond, IA. He earned his medical degree from University of Missouri--Columbia School of Medicine in 2002 and his Internal Medicine residency at the University of Wisconsin, where he was Chief Resident 2005-2006. Dr. Lamfers was recruited to Sanford Adult Medicine in August 2006 where he worked for a couple of years before transitioning to the Sanford USD Medical Center Hospitalist program in January 2009. He quickly distinguished himself as a physician leader, became the Medical Director of the Hospitalist Program in October 2010, and worked in this capacity until accepting the position of Hospitalist Program Director for Quality/Residency Education in March 2014. He is active on many hospital committees and his CV lists multiple publications and presentations.

Dr. Lamfers has served as presenter and moderator at SD ACP meetings. He earned the SD ACP Early Career Physician Award in 2013 and was honored with the Department of Internal Medicine Chair Award in 2015. Dr. Lamfers shines as a medical educator. He has regular teaching responsibilities for medical students and residents. His teaching is detailed, evidence-based, and patient-oriented, but most importantly, it is clear that he truly cares about helping trainees improve. Dr. Lamfers has been a key leader among the residency core faculty, developing and implementing the current quality improvement and intern orientation curricula. He now serves as Patient Safety and Quality Officer for USD GME, for which he is developing a system-wide educational program for residents. Through all of these touch points with trainees, he is a role model of professionalism and collegial practice.

Dr. Lamfers and his wife Rachel have two sons, Ethan, age 14 and Noah, age 11. He loves family time and he is active in his church. In his free time, he enjoys hunting waterfowl and golfing.

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***Humanitarian of the Year***  
***Binod Dhungana, MD, FACP***

***This award is given for outstanding contributions to humanism in medicine and also recognizes scholarly activities in literature, philosophy, and ethics.***

Binod Dhungana, MD, FACP currently practices as a hospitalist at Rapid City Regional Hospital in Rapid City, South Dakota. He is originally from Nepal and completed his medical training at Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2007. Binod then transitioned to Brooklyn, New York, in 2013 for his residency in Internal Medicine at the Interfaith Medical Center. He accepted his first position as hospitalist at Rapid City Regional Hospital in the fall of 2013. In addition to providing high quality medical care for his patients and exemplary leadership among his team members, he also teaches medical students from USD Sanford School of Medicine.

A massive earthquake struck his home country of Nepal in April 2015. As a humanitarian, Dr. Dhungana spearheaded a fundraising campaign, collecting over \$100,000 for the Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund. A week after the initial earthquake, he and a group of his friends from across the US traveled to Nepal and spent four weeks volunteering with the relief effort. They visited six severely affected districts in Nepal and conducted medical camps in the most devastated villages, providing first-hand medical treatment and distributing relief materials. Dr. Dhungana is a board member of the American Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF) whose mission is to advance healthcare in Nepal.

In his spare time, Binod loves to play and watch soccer, hike, travel, and take photographs.



***Laureate Award***  
***Robert Allison, 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.***

Rob Allison, MD, FACP is a Nebraska native who completed both medical school and internal medicine residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. He joined the ACP during medical school and has been an active leader in the organization ever since.

In 1997, Dr. Allison moved to Pierre, where he practices the full breadth of clinic and hospital medicine, including endoscopy, stress testing, and interpretation of cardiac echo. Over the past 20 years in our state capital, he has established himself as an astute clinician and a determined advocate and participant in the legislative process at both the state and federal level.

For almost two decades, Dr. Allison has been the health and public policy champion for the SD ACP. He has served as chair of that committee from 2003-2011 and again from 2014 to the present, taking a break to lead the SDSMA as their president-elect and president in the interim. His advocacy resume includes "ACP Key Contact" status since 2003, also attending Leadership Day in Washington, D.C., regularly during this time. He has testified passionately on topics from smoking to scope of practice, and rallied physicians from across the state to fight for our patients and our profession. Outside of the ACP, he is a current member of the governor's Primary Care Task Force, SDSMA Alternate Delegate to the AMA, member of the Medicaid Task Force, and regular "Doctor of the Day" for our legislators. In recognition of these efforts, Dr. Allison received the 2015 Neubauer Advocate for Internal Medicine Award, the national ACP award bestowed upon a member who has best demonstrated excellence in advocacy at the state and national level. Dr. Allison is an annual attendee at the state scientific meeting, serving as local program chair and host in 2000, 2007, and 2014. He has been a member since 1994, Fellow since 2002, and received the SD ACP Young Physician of the Year in 2006.

Rob lives in Pierre with his wife Marty, son Avery, and two daughters Alexandria and Andie. He enjoys sports, music, and keeping up with his active family.