

The South Dakota American College of Physicians is pleased to  
announce its 2020 Awards

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**Early Career Physician of the Year**  
**Clarissa Barnes, 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. Clarissa Barnes graduated from John Hopkins School of Medicine and completed her IM Residency at John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD. She then practiced at the Yankton Medical Clinic, initially as a full-time, traditional IM practice, then she transitioned to outpatient clinic with hospital call coverage while doing additional hospitalist shifts. Three years later, she moved to Avera Medical Group in Pierre as Regional Medical Director of Clinic Quality, which was created to educate medical providers about quality guidelines and best practices. She then moved to work as a hospitalist at Avera McKennan in Sioux Falls and as System Physician Advisor in CDI/UR in an administrative role at the system level to target clinical-documentation opportunities and ensure compliance with government requirements. In addition, she became Medical Director of LIGHT, Avera's program for physician and APP wellness. She is an active advocate for all physicians and was successful in getting mental health disclosures for physician licensure in South Dakota changed to decrease the barriers physicians face in getting treatment. In her many roles, she has served on multiple hospital committees. In a volunteer capacity she has been board member, secretary and president of the Board of Directors for the South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care. She is a provider advisory committee member for the Catholic Health Association, ACP Wellness Champion for the State of South Dakota, and Policy Councilor for the SD State Medical Association. She gave a presentation on Burnout in Healthcare at the ACP Regional Meeting in 2019 and also for the Society of Hospital Pharmacists. She is Clinical Associate Professor, at USD SSOM.



**Teacher of the Year**  
**Mark Lounsbury, DO**

*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.*

Mark G. Lounsbury, DO earned his Doctor of Osteopathy from Des Moines College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery. He did his IM Residency at Sanford School of Medicine at USD. He was awarded the John L Boice, MD Resident Award and was Chief Resident in 2009. Dr. Lounsbury exemplifies talent, enthusiasm, and professionalism in the education of medical students and residents. He has been a sought-after teacher and has touched the lives of numerous medical students and residents. He has worked as a Physical Diagnosis Instructor and OSCE Examiner annually since 2008. He has been a Resident Continuity Clinic Attending since 2009 and Mentor for both 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical students since 2009. His student evaluations have been top notch. One student said, "I am not surprised that Dr. Lounsbury is being considered for a teaching award. As his student, he allowed me to become more confident in my skills with patients by allowing me time with the patient getting their history and physical. He then always challenged me by asking me "what do you want to do?" As a third-year medical student that question can seem daunting. But, through his guidance I was able to become more confident in my knowledge and learn more about the management of patients. He also had me learn about patients we saw that day by learning about their pathology and management and presenting what I learned to him the next week. By being able to tie a disease process to a patient that I had seen and then learn about that disease process in the textbook or online, I was able to remember the important information about the disease and management more effectively. Overall, I think Dr. Lounsbury is well deserving of this award."

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**Volunteer of the Year**  
**Matt Bien, MD FACP FAAP**

*This award is bestowed upon a member who has initiated or been involved in volunteer programs or provided exemplary volunteer service. The volunteer activity may include education and teaching endeavors, service to the underprivileged, or work with community service organizations and should be medically related.*

Dr. Matt Bien received his MD degree, from the USD SSOM (1996). He completed a combined Internal Medicine - Pediatrics residency at Marshfield Clinic and St. Joseph Hospital in Marshfield, WI and accepted a position as an Internist/Pediatrician with Avera Medical Group in Brookings, SD where he has demonstrated an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education and service to the community. In addition to other volunteer activities, Dr. Bien has been involved with the Brookings Marathon since 2003, and served as race director since 2006. These coordination efforts include chairing a race committee and organizing more than 300 other volunteers who guide, support, and encourage runners visiting the Brookings community. Though the race is run on a single day, planning occurs year-round, with Dr. Bien's time alone surpassing 100 hours annually. The race promotes health and wellness for community members and visiting runners alike, often inspiring volunteers to participate at some race distance in subsequent years. During Bien's tenure the race has grown to record numbers, with more than 1000 runners competing in the weekend's half marathon, marathon, and relay. Proceeds raised by the event support the Boys and Girls Club in Brookings.



**Laureate Award**  
**Eric Larson, 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.*

Eric A. Larson, MD, FACP, completed his MD degree at University of South Dakota. During his residency years he received numerous awards including 1<sup>st</sup> Year Resident Award, Chair's Award for outstanding service to the Chair, the Donald Humphrey's Award for a winning clinical vignette, Sr. Resident Teaching Award, and Chairperson Award to name a few. He began his career as a IM physician at Central Plains and then joined Sanford Adult Medicine. He currently has a busy outpatient clinic practice and his patients love him. His career has been marked by his dedication to excellence and his collegiality. Dr. Larson has held a variety of roles in medical education and has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor at SSOM. He has been the Transitional Year Residency Program Director since 2013 was named IM Division Chief in 2016. In addition to this he has taught sophomore Physical Diagnosis, served as IM coordinator and attending for 3<sup>rd</sup> year resident required rotation for SSOM. He also served as an attending for psychiatry residents with special emphasis on psychiatric manifestations of medical illness and has been an attending for 3<sup>rd</sup> year IM Clerkship and for 4<sup>th</sup> year IM elective. He has mentored Bedside Teaching Rounds for IM residents and medical students on ward rotations 1-3 times weekly. He has co-authored over 30 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals. He is lead physician and/or Co-Investigator on several large grants from National Institutes of Health for Implementing Genomics in Practice and wide scale expansion of translational genomics throughout the North/Midwestern United States. Dr. Larson has held many roles in the SDACP and served with distinction. He has been Co-Chair, Annual Meeting, Co-Chair By-Laws Committee, member of the Council, Membership Committee, and Young Physicians Council. He has moderated annual Doctors' Dilemma sessions and resident/student poster sessions. In recognition of his service to our chapter he has been awarded SD Young Physician of the Year (2008), SD ACP Teacher of the Year (2012). He is currently SDACP Vice Governor and Interim Chair of Internal Medicine at SSOM.