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Contact: Matthew Reese; Education Coordinator
Florida Medical Directors Association
(561) 659-5581, mattr@fmda.org
www.fmda.org

New Board Installed at FMDA's 20th Anniversary Conference, Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2011

- Annual conference marks another successful year for Florida Medical Directors Association

West Palm Beach, Fla. — Florida Medical Directors Association (FMDA) recently completed its 20th annual conference which gathered more than 400 long-term care (LTC) based practitioners and exhibitors at Disney's Grand Floridian Hotel in Orlando, Fla. The conference was another huge success and capped another great year for the association.

American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) president Dr. Karyn Leible was on hand to install the new slate of officers – most notably, Dr. John Symeonides as president and Dr. John Potomski, Jr. as chairman of the board. Drs. Symeonides and Potomski have had extensive roles in the shaping of FMDA and the organization will most certainly benefit from their continued leadership.

Dr. Symeonides, the co-chair of FMDA's education committee for the past year and program director for its annual conference, has put extensive time and effort in establishing FMDA as one of the leading organizations in LTC. As president, Dr. Symeonides will remain focused on issues that affect long-term care providers. "I look forward to continuing the fight for LTC and geriatrics in the state of Florida, and promoting our organization as an effective resource and sounding board for our members and other health care providers, so that they can provide the best possible medical care to our seniors," said Dr. Symeonides.

Dr. Potomski is a past-president of FMDA and a former chairman of the board, a role in which he is once again serving. He has worked diligently to establish FMDA as a national model and helping to catapult the association into one of the most respected LTC membership societies in the state. As chairman of the board, Dr. Potomski looks to expand the organization even more and keep FMDA at the forefront of advancing geriatric care by encompassing the entire health care interdisciplinary team.

Other officers installed by Dr. Leible included Robert Kaplan, MD, CMD, as vice-president; and Leonard Hock, DO, CMD, as secretary/treasurer; as well as four new directors: Daniel Fortier, MD, CMD; David LeVine, MD, CMD; Carl Suchar, DO, CMD; and Diane Sanders-Cepeda, DO. FMDA looks forward to its tenure under the leadership of these fine individuals.

FMDA was honored to have the AMDA president officiate at the installation of the officers and directors. During the ceremony, Dr. Leible offered these words; —FMDA is at the forefront in LTC medicine and remains one of the most influential chapters of AMDA in the interest of best care practices and optimizing patient health in the geriatrics continuum.

During the Annual Awards Luncheon, FMDA announced the winner of the 2011 Poster Presentation Awards. This year's winner was Carol Motycka, a pharmacist and Assistant Dean and Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Florida. Her study, as portrayed in her poster presentation, dealt with whether anticoagulation monitoring by a pharmacist would benefit long-term care facilities. Congratulations to Dr. Motycka for her wonderful poster presentation.

Also, this year's past officers were recognized at the President's Wine & Cheese reception with plaques for their service and dedication to the organization.

Plans for FMDA's 21th annual conference are already underway. Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2012 will be returning to Disney's Swan & Dolphin Resort, October 25-28, 2012.

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Started in 1990, the Florida Medical Directors Association is the official state chapter of the American Medical Directors Association and is a Specialty Society of the Florida Medical Association. It is based in West Palm Beach, Fla.

The FMDA represents more than 325 medical directors, attending physicians, physician assistants, and advanced registered nurse practitioners in Florida's postacute care continuum, including subacute care, hospice, skilled nursing, and assisted living facilities, as well as in continuing-care retirement communities.

The mission of FMDA is to promote the highest quality care as patients' transition through the long term care continuum. FMDA is dedicated to providing leadership, professional education and advocacy for the inter-professional team.