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FMDA Announces Winners of 2009 Careers in Long-Term Care Awards — “Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2009” Exceeds Expectations

West Palm Beach, Fla. — Florida Medical Directors Association (FMDA) President Hugh Thomas, DO, FAAFP, CMD, is pleased to announce that Kathe Hypes, MSN, GNP, a candidate for doctoral of nursing practice degree at the University of Central Florida, is the first-place winner of FMDA’s 2009 Careers in Long-Term Care Awards program. Award presentations were recently held during the Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2009 conference at the *Buena Vista Palace Hotel* in Orlando where Ms. Hypes was awarded an educational grant in the amount of \$2,000.

The other two winners, finishing in second and third place respectively, were Herma Baker, MSN, FNP-BC, and Marva Edwards-Marshall, MSN, ARNP-BC. Each of them are also candidates for doctoral of nursing practice degrees at the University of Central Florida. They both received educational grants as well.

FMDA President Hugh Thomas, DO, FAAFP, CMD, was delighted with the outcome.

“We are very proud to be able to sponsor such a worthwhile program,” said Dr. Thomas. “It provides an opportunity for up-and-coming physicians, as well as nurse practitioner and physician assistant students to share research results, best practices, and outcomes with their colleagues at our annual conference.”

The Careers in LTC Awards Selection Committee chair was Naushira Pandya, MD, CMD, associate professor and chair, Department of Geriatrics, Nova Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Lauderdale.

“We are thrilled with the commitment shown by Kathe Hypes, Herma Baker, and Marva Edwards-Marshall, in advancing long-term care and geriatrics. In recognition of this award, their dedication to providing care to the elderly does not go unnoticed,” said Dr. Pandya. “Their efforts undoubtedly improve the health care and quality of life for our seniors.”

The Careers in LTC Awards Committee ranked each applicant according to the quality and relevance of his or her abstract and poster submission. This unique program is open to all medical residents and fellows who are in geriatrics, family practice, and internal medicine in Florida, and who are interested in practicing in long-term care and geriatrics. In addition, nurse practitioner and physician assistant students who are interested in practicing in long-term care and geriatrics are also eligible to apply.

For more information concerning the Careers in LTC Awards Program, please contact Ian Cordes, executive director, at ian.cordes@fmda.org or, at (561) 659-5581.

These award were presented on Oct. 31, at FMDA’s 18th Annual Conference which was called the “Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2009, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Photo Caption: LTC Awards 1st-place winner, Kathe Hypes, MSN, GNP (far right) alongside Careers in LTC Awards Committee chair Dr. Naushira Pandya and FMDA president Dr. John Potomski

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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 in the postacute continuum by providing leadership, professional education, and advocacy.