



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HCMS/HAM Announce John P. McGovern Compleat Physician Award

HOUSTON – Feb. 28, 2022 – The Harris County Medical Society (HCMS) and the Houston Academy of Medicine (HAM) named Augustus A. White, III, MD, PhD, as the winner of the John P. McGovern Compleat Physician Award during the HCMS/HAM Installation of Officers & Leadership Recognition ceremony held Feb. 25, 2022.

This annual national award, named after its first recipient, John P. McGovern, recognizes the physician who embodies the ideals of Sir William Osler -- medical excellence, humane and ethical care, commitment to medical humanities and writing, research, and harmony between the academic and medical practitioner.

Dr. White's commitment to excellence is demonstrated by his continued contributions to the field of orthopedics. Throughout his more than 60-year career, Dr. White has excelled as a teacher, mentor, and humanitarian caregiver.

After graduating from Brown University with high honors, he attended medical school at Stanford University where he was the first African-American to graduate. He completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at Presbyterian Medical Center in San Francisco; Newington Children's Hospital in Newington, Conn.; Yale-New Haven Hospital, and the Veterans Administration Hospital in New Haven, Conn. He went on to serve in the Army in Vietnam. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his service during a mountain side rescue of a U.S. soldier with a fractured hip.

Dr. White has made significant contributions to academic orthopedics. He co-founded two orthopedic biomechanics laboratories at Yale University School of Medicine and at Harvard Medical School. Additionally, he created the first academic orthopedic department at Harvard Medical School.

Throughout his career, Dr. White's focus has been on humanitarian patient care and concern for social justice, including writing several books highlighting the disparities in healthcare. In July 2020, the Augustus A. White, III Institute for Healthcare Equity was established with the mission of ensuring "equitable care to minority communities through communicating and mobilizing best practices across the healthcare ecosystem."

Past recipients of the Award are Dr. Raymond Scalettar (1994), Dr. Ernest W. Johnson (1995), Dr. Donald W. Chapman (1996), Dr. Theodore E. Woodward (1997), Dr. Charles D. Sherman (1998), Dr. Michael E. DeBakey (1999), Dr. Victor A. McKusick (2000), Dr. W. Walter Menninger (2001), Dr. Robert L. DuPont (2002), Dr. Denton A. Cooley (2003), Dr. John P. Strong (2004), Dr. John P. Bilezikian (2005), Dr. Kathleen M. Foley (2006), Dr. Ralph E. Feigin (2007), Dr. Stanley Appell (2008), Dr. Richard J. O'Reilly (2009), Dr. Raymond H. Kaufman (2010), Dr. Dev A. GnanaDev (2011), Dr. Richard P. Wenzel (2012), Dr. Walter J. Pories (2013), Dr. Samuel L. Katz (2014), Dr. Allen B. Weisse (2015), Dr. William Schaffner (2016), Dr. Herbert L. Fred (2017), Dr. David K.C. Cooper (2018), Dr. Frederick Grover (2019), Dr. Richard A. Williams (2020), Dr. Stephen B. Greenberg (2021).

About HCMS

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HCMS, established in 1903, is the professional society for physicians in Harris County. It is the largest county medical society in the nation, with a membership of more than 12,900 physicians and medical students. Its mission is to be the leading advocate for its member physicians, their patients and the community, in promoting the highest standards of ethical medical practice, access to quality medical care, medical education, research, and community health. In 1915, HCMS incorporated the Houston Academy of Medicine to support the community service, education, scientific and charitable programs for physicians, their patients, and the community at large in Harris County.

About HAM

The Houston Academy of Medicine (HAM) was incorporated by the HCMS in February 1915 to establish a medical library. HAM is the scientific and charitable [501 (c) (3)] organization of the physicians who make up the membership of HCMS and provide community health education. The HCMS Executive Board also serves as the Board of Trustees, the governing body of HAM. The four HCMS members-at-large serve as the officers of HAM, with the senior member-at-large serving as president.

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