

Board of Directors
New Hampshire Academy of Family Physicians
February 4, 2016

It is my pleasure to nominate my colleague and friend Dr. Gerard J. Hevern for the 2016 New Hampshire Academy of Family Physicians Family Physician of the Year. I believe Dr. Hevern exemplifies all the qualities the NHAFP seeks to recognize by this award: compassion, community involvement, leadership, and professionalism. I have attached his impressive CV for your review but please allow me to personally introduce him to you.

I have known Dr. Hevern since I started practicing in New Hampshire in 1981, including cross-covering with him for thirty years. A graduate of Harvard University and the School of Medicine at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, he completed his family practice residency at Southside Hospital, SUNY at Stony Brook in 1979. In 1979, he arrived in New Hampshire and started a solo private practice in the medically underserved community of Suncook, providing full scope "cradle to grave" family medicine services to his community including obstetrics, pediatrics, hospital care (including ICU care), and nursing home care of his patients. He was joined in practice by Dr. Alan Stein in 1989 and now they both work with a team of nurse practitioners to provide comprehensive family medicine services to the same community as part of the Eliot Physician Network.

From the very start of his career Dr. Hevern recognized that treatment of substance use disorders is an integral component of family practice. A long-term staff physician at the Alcohol Treatment Unit at Catholic Medical Center, he later served as medical director of two substance abuse treatment programs in Manchester: one at Lakeshore Hospital's CareUnit and one at the Catholic Medical Center's Riverway Center for Recovery. He also achieved certification by the American Society of Addiction Medicine in 1990.

Since 2008, in addition to his family medicine practice, he has served as the Medical Director of the Pain Management Center at the Elliot Hospital. His unique skill set as an experienced family physician and addiction specialist have made him a valued member of the pain management team. At the Pain Center, his area of interest is teaching colleagues and patients about the management of both pain and chemical dependency. He also educates patients and their families about medication use, adaptation to physical limitation, and the role of spiritual and emotional support in the successful management of chronic pain.

Education has long been an important part of his medical career. From 1990 to 1998 he held an appointment as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Community and Family Medicine at Dartmouth Medical School. For over 25 years, he has lectured extensively throughout New England to groups of physicians, physician assistants, nurses, pharmacists, addiction specialists, and students about a variety of topics such as management of chronic pain; chemical dependency as a family and community problem; alcohol withdrawal in the ICU; multi-drug overdose; the interface of pain and addiction; drug abuse in the elderly; addiction pharmacology; and opioid use, abuse, and diversion.

Dr. Hevern has long been active in community affairs. He has lectured at local and regional high schools, colleges, and universities about substance abuse issues. He has appeared on local television stations to discuss prescription drug abuse and alcohol abuse. On the state level, Dr. Hevern has served as a member of the Prevention Advisory Committee of the New Hampshire Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. He has also been a leader with the New Hampshire Youth Advocacy Project and New Hampshire Easter Seals.

He has also served in many healthcare leadership roles in the hospital setting. Over his career, he has been elected several times to serve as Chair of the Department of Family Practice at Catholic Medical Center. In addition, he has served on several other hospital committees, including the Executive Committee, the Board of Incorporators, the Substance Abuse Treatment Committee, and the Credentials Committee.

Dr. Hevern has also been very active in physician leadership of healthcare organizations. As President and Medical Director of the New Hampshire Physicians Organization, he provided an independent voice representing physicians in negotiating managed care contracts and creating "Best Practice" protocols to evaluate and improve healthcare outcomes in New Hampshire. He also served on the Board of Directors of Healthsource of New Hampshire, Inc.

A member of the AAFP since 1979, he achieved Fellowship status in 1988. On the state level, he served as Secretary of the NHAFP from 1983 to 1986. He first achieved certification by the American Board of Family Practice/Medicine in 1979 and has successfully recertified five times, most recently in 2015. He also achieved certification by the American Society of Addiction Medicine in 1990. In addition, he is a member of the American Pain Society and the American College of Physician Executives.

Dr. Hevern has always struck a balance between career and family life. He enjoys traveling with his wife, Donna, and spending time with their children and six grandchildren, particularly at his favorite getaway spot, the "Hevern's Harbor House" on Lake Winnepesaukee.

In conclusion, I believe Dr. Gerard J. Hevern meets the qualifications of compassion, community involvement, leadership, and professionalism this award seeks to recognize. Given the opioid crisis we are facing at both the state and national level, his unique combination of competence and experience as a family physician, an addiction specialist, and a pain management specialist make him a particularly apt choice for the 2016 New Hampshire Academy of Family Physicians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paula A. Leonard-Schwartz, MD