

NEWS RELEASE

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NYS Academy of Family Physicians Recognizes New York Family Medicine Residency Programs for Winning Immunization Grants

Albany, N.Y. - The New York State Academy of Family Physicians (NYSAFP) represents over 5,500 physicians, residents and students in family medicine across the State. Today, NYSAFP announced that two New York-based Family Medicine Residency programs were selected by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Foundation to receive 2014-15 Senior Immunization Grant awards. The programs are North Shore-LIJ's Southside Hospital and Glen Cove Hospital Family Medicine Residency programs, located in Bay Shore and Glen Cove, N.Y. respectively.

“We were very pleased to learn that two of the sixteen grant recipients are in New York,” said NYSAFP President Mark Josefski, MD. “Even more exciting is the fact that the Program Directors for these residencies are active NYSAFP members. We congratulate Program Directors Tochi Iroku-Malize, MD MPH and William Bennett, MD for their strong commitment to training the next generation of family physicians in New York and their work in securing these public health improvement grants for their residencies.”

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 90 percent of seasonal flu-related deaths and more than 60% of seasonal flu-related hospitalizations in the United States each year occur in those 65 years and older. These grants provide support to Family Medicine Residency programs to implement quality improvement and community-based projects focused on improving influenza and pneumococcal immunization rates in patients age 65 and older during the 2014-15 flu season. This year's winners were selected based on their ability to implement best practices and identify high-impact, team-based solutions to increase immunization rates in seniors.

“New York's Family Medicine residency programs are leaders in so many areas. This is yet another example of the innovative and community-focused work that they do to expand care and improve the health and well-being of New Yorkers,” explained Josefski.

In addition to receiving funding to implement their recognized projects, grant winners will receive a travel scholarship to present their findings at the AAFP 2015 National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students on August 7-9. Funding for the Senior Immunization Grant Awards is provided by the WellPoint Foundation and Pfizer, Inc. More information on the awards is posted on the AAFP media center at:

http://www.aafp.org/media-center/releases-statements/all/2014/Foundation_Flu_Vaccine_Grants.html

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About the New York State Academy of Family Physicians (NYSAFP)

- ① **NYSAFP is headquartered in Loudonville NY and represents over 5,500 physicians, residents and students in family medicine** across New York State. NYSAFP is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians and

is focused on promoting family practice to patients and the general public to encourage young people to pursue careers in family medicine. NYSAFP's website is www.nysafp.org

- ① **NYSAFP has been a consistent and uncompromising advocate for patients in the public policy arena** supporting many public health and patient safety measures. NYSAFP has also worked successfully for the development of family medicine at medical schools and hospitals throughout the State. The NYSAFP has developed programs for the clinical and leadership development of residents and young family physicians, and many of today's leaders in family medicine are products of the numerous initiatives that NYSAFP has created and promoted over the years.