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Contact: Theodore C. Sectish, M.D.
Email: Theodore.Sectish@childrens.harvard.edu

2014 JOSEPH W. ST. GEME, JR. LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED

Boston, MA - The Federation of Pediatric Organizations is delighted to announce that Lewis R. First, M.D., M.S., F.A.A.P. is the 2014 recipient of the Joseph W. St. Geme, Jr. Leadership Award. Dr. First will receive this award on Saturday, May 3, 2014 during the Opening General Session of the Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting in Vancouver, Canada. A biography and photograph are attached.

On February 10, 2014, the Board of Directors of the Federation of Pediatric Organizations selected Lewis R. First, M.D., M.S., F.A.A.P. to be the 2014 recipient of the Joseph W. St. Geme, Jr. Leadership Award. This award was created in honor of Dr. St. Geme to recognize a pediatrician who is a role model for others to emulate as a clinician, an educator, and/or an investigator. Recipients of this award have had a record of broad and sustained contributions to pediatrics that have had or will have a major impact on child health. Most importantly, the award recognizes those individuals who have “created a future.”

Dr. First is widely recognized as a teacher and educator *extraordinaire* across the educational continuum and beyond. He is clearly a leader in the field of pediatrics and serves as Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Vermont College of Medicine, Chief of Pediatrics at the Vermont Children’s Hospital at Fletcher Allen Health Care, Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Pediatrics*, Chair of the Executive Board of the National Board of Medical Examiners, Chair of the Education Committee of the Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs, and Co-Editor of the 22nd Edition of *Rudolph’s Textbook of Pediatrics*. In addition, for the past 17+ years, Dr. First has offered medical advice to parents entitled “First with Kids” on weekly radio and television news segments, as well as in multiple community newspapers throughout Vermont. His ability to educate, innovate, and communicate effectively with health care professionals, as well as with the public, has resulted in numerous contributions to child health and makes him well deserving of the Joseph W. St. Geme Leadership Award.

The Federation of Pediatric Organizations (FOPO) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to promote optimal health for children by uniting the efforts and expertise of its member organizations to accomplish shared goals.

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Lewis R. First, M.D., M.S., F.A.A.P.

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Dr. First grew up in Philadelphia, PA and graduated *magna cum laude* in 1976 from Harvard College where he majored in Biochemical Sciences. In 1980, he graduated from Harvard Medical School and completed his internship and residency at Boston Children’s Hospital. Dr. First was chosen to be Chief Resident from 1983 to 1984. He remained at Boston Children’s

Hospital as a Clinical Fellow in Ambulatory and Emergency Pediatrics from 1984 to 1985 and, during that same time period, he obtained a Master of Science in Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health.

After finishing his training, Dr. First held a faculty appointment at Harvard Medical School, first as an Instructor in Pediatrics from 1985 to 1990, and then as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics from 1990 to 1994. During this time, he was a clinical leader as Acting Medical Director of the Division of Emergency Medicine (1985-1986), Associate Director of the Division of Emergency Medicine (1986-1988) and Director of the Pediatric Group Associates (1986-1994), a primary care practice for house staff and faculty at Boston Children's Hospital. He also held important educational leadership roles as Director of Education for the Division of General Pediatrics (1990-1994) and Director of Medical Student Pediatric Education (1992-1994) for the Department of Medicine at Boston Children's Hospital.

In 1994, Dr. First became Professor and Chair of Pediatrics at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and Chief of Pediatrics at the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont (now Vermont Children's Hospital at Fletcher Allen Health Care). It is notable that Dr. First is currently one of the longest-standing pediatric department chairs in the United States. Throughout these two decades, Dr. First has been an inspirational leader of his department and major architect and supporter of the educational programs within the department, hospital, and medical school, as well as a driving force for health services research in pediatrics for which his department and faculty have earned national recognition.

In 2003, Dr. First was also appointed Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education, a position he held for five and a half years while he helped oversee and implement a uniquely innovative integrated undergraduate medical curriculum. He stepped down from that position at the end of 2008 when he was asked to also become Editor-in-Chief of *Pediatrics*, the peer-reviewed journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Prior to becoming Editor-in-Chief of *Pediatrics*, Dr. First served from 1998-2008 as the inaugural Co-Editor of *AAP Grand Rounds*, a monthly newsletter summarizing studies of interest in the peer-reviewed pediatric literature.

Dr. First is a gifted teacher and educator. He is articulate, energetic, and innovative in how he effectively meets the needs of his learners. He has a presence at the podium that is absolutely captivating. His timing and sense of humor are on par with the best and yet he uses these talents to impart meaningful messages that are designed to improve the health of children. Evidence of his amazing talents is illustrated by the fact that he has been an invited speaker at 220 regional, national, and international venues! In addition, he is the recipient of 62 awards and honors, many of which were bestowed for teaching and clinical excellence, including his having been selected Clinical Teacher of the Year eight times since 1996 and his Department having been selected Clinical Teaching Department of the Year or runner-up since 1997 at the University of Vermont College of Medicine. Particularly noteworthy are the Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award given by the Association of American Medical Colleges (2002), the National Education Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics (2006) and the Miller Sarkin Mentoring Award (2007) given by the Academic Pediatric Association. Also noteworthy is that Pediatrics has been the leading career choice or runner-up choice for graduates of the University of Vermont medical school every year since he began there as chair. Dr. First served

as mentor or advisor to a majority of these students and continues to do so for many even after they graduate to further their careers in child health.

Dr. First has a national presence and is influential in matters related to educational policy and professional certification. He has a long relationship with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) since 1995 and currently is in his second term as Chair of the Executive Board. His work at the NBME has helped lead that organization into their centennial anniversary year, fostering collaborations nationally and internationally between the NBME and multiple other organizations responsible for the accreditation, assessment, licensure, and certification of health care professionals. Dr. First has also served in numerous roles with the American Board of Pediatrics, most recently as a member of the Research Advisory Committee, and in the past, on the Long Term Planning Committee and the Residency Evaluation Executive Committee. For the Association of Medical School Department Chairs, he is the Chair of their new Education Committee, fostering the strategic role of the Department Chair in educational policy across the continuum of medical education.

Dr. First is a scholar. As Editor-in-Chief for the past five-plus years of *Pediatrics*, the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, he has spearheaded efforts to make the journal contemporary, relevant, useful, and cutting edge. Among his accomplishments, he has broadened the readership substantially to record highs and increased the journal's impact factor to its highest level ever by fostering the utility of the online version of the journal. He has helped create and introduce new features focused in such areas as quality improvement, ethics, translational state-of-the-art science, medical education and global health. He has also used social media to draw in not just pediatric health care professionals but the public as well so everyone interested in child health can benefit from studies published in the journal. Additionally, Dr. First has been the Co-Editor of four major textbooks in the field of Pediatrics, the most recent being the 22nd edition of *Rudolph's Textbook of Pediatrics*.

In summary, Lewis R. First, M.D., M.S., F.A.A.P. is indeed the perfect recipient of the Joseph W. St. Geme Jr. Leadership Award. He is an outstanding educator and clinician, an influential national leader for educational policy and professional certification, and an editor of the highest impact general pediatric peer-reviewed journal and one of the top-selling pediatric textbooks. In addition to all of these outstanding accomplishments, he is genuine, kind, a perennial optimist with a remarkable sense of humor, and the consummate player-coach when it comes to caring for children with a sense of unmatched humanism and passion for what he does--and he does so in such an amazing and seemingly effortless way. He is truly one-of-a-kind and "First" when it comes to exemplifying a true leader in pediatrics who is most well-deserving of the 2014 Joseph W. St. Geme Jr. Leadership Award.

On a personal note, when not leading, teaching, writing, or caring for patients as a generalist in the outpatient or inpatient setting, Dr. First enjoys spending time with his wife Sandy, and his daughter Rachel (21) and son David (23) who is married to daughter-in-law Linh (all in college) and his granddaughter Khailyn who will be two in July of this year. His other extracurricular interests include travel, golf, and collecting Mickey Mouse neckties and medical animation art.