

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Federation of Pediatric Organizations is delighted to announce
Kenneth B. Roberts, M.D.
as the recipient of the
2009 Joseph W. St. Geme, Jr. Leadership Award.
Dr. Roberts will receive this award on Sunday, May 3rd during the
American Pediatric Society Plenary immediately following the
Presidential Address and the Howland Award
at the Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting in Baltimore, MD.
A biography and photograph are provided below.



On February 2, 2009, the Board of Directors of the Federation of Pediatric Organizations selected Kenneth B. Roberts, M.D. as the 2009 Joseph W. St. Geme, Jr. Leadership Awardee. This award was created in honor of Dr. St. Geme to recognize an individual who is a leader in the field of pediatrics, a role model, and one who has contributed broadly to the field. Most importantly the award recognizes those individuals who have “created a future.” Dr. Roberts is the consummate generalist and an individual who has created a future in pediatrics. His contributions in education, leadership, community pediatrics, advocacy, and mentorship are noteworthy and as such, he is an ideal recipient of the Joseph W. St. Geme, Jr. Leadership Award.

A Georgia native, Dr. Roberts received his undergraduate degree from Yale University and his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he remained for his pediatric residency. Between the 2nd and 3rd year of his pediatrics residency training, he entered military service as Chief of the Physicians Development Activity at the Centers for Disease Control training program. He earned the distinction of being Chief Resident at Johns Hopkins for two years, one year overseeing the Harriet Lane Outpatient Department and one year as the Inpatient Chief Resident. Dr. Roberts ascended the ranks from Assistant to Associate Professor on the faculty of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He worked closely with his mentor, Evan Charney and served as Associate Pediatrician-in-Chief and later Pediatrician-in-Chief at

Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, a community hospital affiliated with Johns Hopkins. Dr Roberts moved to the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Massachusetts where, also under Evan Charney's leadership, he was Residency Program Director, Medical Director of Inpatient Pediatrics, Vice-chair, and Professor of Pediatrics. There Dr Roberts became an innovative educational leader in primary care education and in faculty development of community practitioner-preceptors. His work served as the model for creating continuity experiences in community practices for many pediatric program directors across the country. Subsequently, Dr. Roberts moved to the Moses Cone Health Care System in Greensboro, NC, where he is Director of the Pediatric Teaching Program in this UNC training site and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of North Carolina.

Dr Roberts' reputation as an innovator, an expert in teaching and faculty development, and a brilliant general pediatrician enabled him to become a national leader of the Association of Pediatric Program Directors (APPD) and the Academic Pediatric Association (then Ambulatory Pediatric Association). It was Dr. Roberts who broadened the mission of APPD to include advancing graduate medical education as a key element of the APPD mission in addition to serving the membership of program directors. He created an active APPD regional group in New England. He worked hard towards establishing collaboration along the educational continuum with medical student clerkship directors, so it is fitting indeed that he will be honored in Baltimore with this award just after giving the keynote address at the first joint meeting of the APPD and the Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics.

Dr. Roberts' perspective as a general pediatrician has been visionary and broad in scope, but he has always kept children and their interests in the center of his vision. Throughout his career, Dr. Roberts has been an advocate, especially in the area of child passenger safety and injury control. He spearheaded the effort in Maryland to pass a child safety seat law and, in Massachusetts, he helped to reinstitute a universal seat belt law which had been repealed by the legislature. In fact, the law was reinstated over the veto of the governor. Now that is advocacy! In addition, he has worked tirelessly to bring practitioners into the academic fold and improve pediatric care at community hospitals. His concept in community pediatrics was simple: in order to better serve our nation's children, the focus needed to include community hospitals where much of pediatric care is provided. Thus, he has worked towards a collaborative effort of hospitalists, intensivists, general pediatricians, pediatric emergency medicine specialists, and community-based practitioners to provide high quality care in community hospital settings.

His citizenship to the pediatrics community is evident by his participation in numerous local, regional, state, and national organizations, committees, advisory boards and societies. He gives his time generously and shares his practical wisdom on behalf of the interests of children and their health care needs. Dr. Roberts has been honored as the recipient of more than 25 awards, most often for his outstanding teaching ability. His scholarship is noteworthy with over 300 publications on his curriculum vitae.

In summary, Kenneth B. Roberts, M.D. is a role model general pediatrician, a brilliant teacher, an effective advocate, a scholar, and a visionary leader. He has inspired countless medical students, residents, and colleagues with his energy, enthusiasm, and passion for teaching. His lifetime of dedication to children and children's health and his record of achievement make him so deserving of this 2009 Joseph W. St. Geme, Jr. Leadership Award.

On a personal note, activities on behalf of children have been a family affair, and Dr. Roberts shares the accolades that come with this award with his wife, Ellen, his two daughters, Kimberly and Tracy, and his two grandchildren, Kaylin and Andrew.