Installation of Officers 2012

Harris County Medical Society and Houston Academy of Medicine Install New Leaders

Houston, TX (Jan. 16, 2012)...The Harris County Medical Society (HCMS), the professional society for physicians in Harris County, and the Houston Academy of Medicine (HAM), the scientific and charitable organization for HCMS physicians, installed their new officers on Jan. 13, at the HCMS/HAM Installation of Officers & Leadership Recognition, at the Petroleum Club of Houston. HCMS is the largest county medical society in the nation, with nearly 11,000 physician and medical student members.

Keynote speaker Kinky Friedman and Master of Ceremonies Michael E. Speer, M.D., Texas Medical Association president elect, welcomed into office 2012 HCMS President Keith A Bourgeois, M.D., and 2012 HAM President Elizabeth Torres, M.D., as well as the other HCMS and HAM officers. During the evening, HAM honored Richard Wenzel, M.D., with the John P. McGovern Compleat Physician Award. This national award recognizes a physician who embodies excellence, humane and ethical care, and commitment to medical humanities.

Dr. Bourgeois, an ophthalmologist in private practice, was installed as the 111th president of HCMS. His practice, Downtown Eye Associates, is limited to diseases and surgery of the retina and vitreous. He has been an active member of St. Joseph Medical Center's staff for more than 20 years, serving as chief of staff in 2010-2011 and as a former member of the governing board. He became a diplomate of the American Board of Ophthalmology in 1988.

Dr. Bourgeois is a clinical assistant professor of ophthalmology and visual science at The University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston and at The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He has helped train medical students, interns, residents, and retinal fellows.

He is a member of the American Medical Association, American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Society of Retinal Specialists, Texas Medical Association, Texas Ophthalmological Association, Harris County Medical Society, and Houston Ophthalmological Society.

May 2012 marks the beginning of his yearlong service as president of the Texas Ophthalmological Society, in which he previously served as councilor from 2006 to 2011. He served on the Harris County delegation to the Texas Medical Association and was chair from 2006 to 2008.

Dr. Bourgeois grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana. He received a Bachelor of Science in Zoology from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and a Doctor of Medicine (1983) from Louisiana State University Medical School in New Orleans. He completed his residency in Ophthalmology in 1987 at The University of Texas Medical School – Hermann Eye Center in Houston, which included training at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. This was followed by a fellowship in diseases and surgery of the retina and vitreous. He further advanced his training by studying abroad in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, and continues to attend meetings throughout the United States and Europe.

Dr. Elizabeth Torres, a board-certified internist and fellow of the American College of Physicians, was installed as the 2012 president of the Houston Academy of Medicine (HAM). Since 1986, she has enjoyed private practice, serving the southwest Houston and Sugar Land areas. She received her medical education from Baylor College of Medicine and her residency training at Baylor College of Medicine and New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Dr. Torres has hospital affiliations with Memorial Hermann Sugar Land, Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital, West Houston Hospital, Methodist Hospital-Sugar Land, and St. Luke’s Sugar Land Hospital. During her medical career, she has been very involved with organized medicine. She belongs to the Texas Medical Association (TMA), American College of Physicians, American Medical Association (AMA), and Hispanic American Medical Association of Houston.

Dr. Torres has held numerous positions at hospitals, and presently is chair of the Peer Review Committee at St. Luke’s Sugar Land Hospital and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at St. Luke’s Hospital Sugar Land (2011 to present).

In her community, she has presented numerous health education programs and served on the boards of the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce, American Cancer Society and Fort Bend County Women’s Center. For more than 10 years, she has given presentations to the National Youth Leadership Forum, which promotes careers in medicine to high school students.

She has been involved with organized medicine and other groups, holding various positions throughout the years, which include being: a member of the Heart Failure Workgroup of the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement (convened by the AMA), a member of the TMA Council on Scientific Affairs, president of the Southwest Branch of HCMS, a member of the General Internal Medicine Advisory Committee for Vaccine Policy
Collaborative Initiative, a HCMS alternate delegate to TMA (2002), a HCMS delegate to TMA (2003 to present), secretary/treasurer of HCMS, a member of the HCMS Board of Medical Legislation, and a member of the HCMS Executive Board and HAM Board of Trustees.

Dr. Bourgeois and Dr. Torres will serve as presidents for one-year terms, ending Dec. 31. The HCMS Executive Board is the governing board of HCMS and its members serve on the HAM Board of Trustees, the governing board of HAM. The four HCMS members-at-large are the officers of HAM. The HCMS Executive Board officers for 2012 are: Keith A. Bourgeois, M.D., president; Russell W. H. Kridel, M.D, president elect; Joel S. Dunnington, M.D., vice president; and George D. Santos, M.D., secretary/treasurer.

The HAM Board of Trustees for 2012 are: Elizabeth Torres, M.D., HAM president and HCMS member-at-large; Bradford S. Patt, M.D., HAM vice president and HCMS member-at-large; Kimberly E. Monday, M.D., HAM treasurer and HCMS member-at-large; and Lisa L. Ehrlich, M.D., HAM secretary and HCMS member-at-large.

The following council and board chairs and branch presidents also will sit on the 2012 HCMS Executive Board and HAM Board of Trustees: Victor Fainstein, M.D., HCMS Council of Hospital Chiefs of Staff; Maria Carmen A. Sarino-Roy, M.D., HCMS Council of International and Affiliated Medical Societies; Melissa A. Bogle, M.D., HCMS Council of Specialty Societies; Steven M. Petak, M.D., HCMS Board of Ethics; Bernard M. Gerber, M.D., HCMS Board of Medical Legislation; Dwane G. Broussard, M.D., HCMS Board on Socioeconomics; William S. Gilmer, M.D., Delegation to the TMA; Shkelzen Hoxhaj, M.D., HCMS Central Branch president; Magdy A. Abdelsayed, M.D., HCMS East Branch president; David P. Poindexter, M.D., HCMS North Branch; Matthew D. Hoggatt, M.D., HCMS Southeast Branch; Daniel C. Corredor, M.D., HCMS Southwest Branch; Liliane Hay, M.D., HCMS Western Branch; John W. Burruss, M.D., of Baylor College of Medicine, and Martin J. Citardi, M.D., of The University of Texas Health Science Center.

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 nearly 11,000 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.