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Capital Medical Society honors outstanding physician, gives posthumous Humanitarian award

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The local medical community gathered at the Capital Medical Society's Celebration Awards Dinner to honor Dr. Sergio Ginaldi, posthumously, with the I.B. Harrison, M.D. Humanitarian Award, and Dr. David Saint with the Outstanding Physician Award on Sept. 14 at the FSU University Center Club.

More than 200 local physicians and dentists planned to attend. Other guests include: Mark O'Bryant, President & CEO of Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare.

The I.B. Harrison, M.D. Humanitarian Award is named for Dr. I.B. "Bud" Harrison, a pioneer in medicine in Tallahassee, who set the standard for compassionate, community-minded healthcare. Dr. Sergio Ginaldi was a retired board-certified radiologist. Sadly, Dr. Ginaldi passed away in August 2020.

Dr. Ginaldi's skill, perseverance, enthusiasm, kindness, and compassion drew admiration from his colleagues, medical students, residents, patients, and the community.

He is credited with the advancement in double contrast GI evaluations, starting a swallowing program for patients with dysphagia, and implementing the use of CT for pulmonary emboli, acute renal stone disease, and small bowel pathology, as well as imaging-guided invasive procedures.

He held multiple positions at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, including Chair of the Department of Radiology and Director of Ultrasound. He was co-founder and co-director of the Swallowing Clinic.

He served as the radiology representative to the Cancer Conference for 38 years. Dr. Ginaldi's passion was mentoring future physicians, especially those with interest in

radiology. He was a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Florida State University College of Medicine and gave many lectures to the residents in the TMH Family Medicine and Internal Medicine Residency Programs.

In 2015, Dr. Ginaldi was instrumental in creating the Healthy Kids, Healthy Lives Art Campaign, hosted by Radiology Associates of Tallahassee (RAOT).

In partnership with Leon County Schools, the RAOT invites third, fourth, and fifth-grade students to create and submit inspiring artwork that embraces tobacco abstinence, good eating habits, and regular exercise. Each year, RAOT judges the submitted artwork and selects 13 artists for the yearly calendar, and each of their art departments are awarded with a monetary donation.

The Outstanding Physician Award honors a physician who has demonstrated leadership through organized medicine, public relations, political activities, clinical excellence, and contributions to education.

Dr. David Saint is a board-certified cardiothoracic surgeon with Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Physician Partners. Dr. Saint's passion is to mentor future physicians. Prior to the creation of Florida State University College of Medicine, Dr. Saint spent several years teaching cardiac physiology to the Program in Medical Sciences (PIMS) students at FSU.

The PIMS program functioned as a pre-medical school, requiring students to study for 12 months instead of the traditional nine months. Additionally, he served as a member of the Admissions Committee for the PIMS program. Since 1997, he has served as Medical Director and Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiopulmonary Science at Florida A&M University.

In this role, he supervises and assures the medical components of the curriculum for both didactic and clinical practice. Currently, he is a clinical preceptor for the FSU College of Medicine General Surgery Residency Program at TMH. He has also served as Chair of the TMH Medical Staff, TMH Board of Directors, and the TMH Surgical Case Review Committee.

Additionally, he served on the Board of Governors for the Capital Medical Society from 1993 to 1999, including as President in 1998. Since 2017, Dr. Saint has been affiliated with the Tallahassee Research Institute (TRI). Founded by the physicians of Southern Medical Group, TRI collaborates with Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare to bring advanced clinical cardiovascular research trials to the area.

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