



Wisconsin Medical Society

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Neil Bard, MD, honored as Physician Citizen of the Year

Madison (April 29, 2010) – Family physician Neil Bard, MD, was honored with the 2010 Physician Citizen of the Year Award at the Wisconsin Medical Society’s Annual Meeting in Madison April 16-17. Doctor Bard was the driving force behind the Richland Community Free Clinic, a joint effort of Richland Hospital and Richland Medical Center.

The Physician Citizen of the Year Award was created to recognize physicians who have volunteered their time and talents to improve their communities and the state of Wisconsin. Awarded annually, the award honors recipients for civic, cultural, economic and charitable services they provide to their communities.

Doctor Bard, a family physician with Richland Medical Center, has served the residents of Richland County for almost 30 years. During that time, he has seen many forego basic medical care because they have little or no health insurance. So he brought together clinic and hospital leaders to push the effort forward and secured much of the funding for the Free Clinic.

“Doctor Bard recognized that something had to be done; and in 2007, his dream became a reality with the opening of the Richland Community Free Clinic,” said George Lange, MD, outgoing Chair of the Society’s Board of Directors, during the presentation. “Today, thanks to Dr. Bard’s leadership, dozens of volunteers eagerly offer their time and talents; and because of him, many people receive the care they need.”

Colleague Robert Smith, MD, nominated Dr. Bard for the award, and in his nomination wrote that the Free Clinic “never would have happened without him.”

With nearly 12,500 members dedicated to the best interests of their patients, the [Wisconsin Medical Society](#) is the largest association of medical doctors in the state and a trusted source for health policy leadership since 1841.

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