



**For Immediate Release**

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## ***FMDA Hosts Very Successful 2015 Best Care Practices Conference in Orlando***

*- More than 240 post-acute and long-term care practitioners were present*

**West Palm Beach, Fla.** - FMDA – The Florida Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine and newly-installed President, Dr. Leonard Hock, are very pleased with the outcome of its recent Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum conference. The distinguished geriatrics conference gathered together more than 240 physicians, advanced practice nurses, pharmacists, nurses, and administrators at Disney's *Yacht & Beach Club Resort*. With a theme focusing on quality and future directions of health care, the conference offered sessions that empowered PA/LTC practitioners to stay ahead of the curve and be prepared for what lies ahead. The goal of every Best Care Practices conference is to provide a high quality educational and networking experience for all those with an interest in geriatrics and PA/LTC medicine.

This year's conference featured an outstanding presence from AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, FMDA's national affiliate. There were five past presidents of AMDA in attendance, in addition to current AMDA president, Florida's own, Dr. Naushira Pandya. AMDA's executive director, Christopher Laxton, and AMDA's director of public policy, Alex Bardakh, were on hand as well.

The highly anticipated session, "A Conversation with Our National Leaders," emceed by FMDA President Dr. Robert Kaplan, featured Dr. Naushira Pandya, president of AMDA; Dr. Christine Ritchie, president of American Academy of Hospice & Palliative Medicine (AAHPM); and Dr. Thomas Cornwell, president of American Academy of Home Care Medicine (AAHCM). Each took an opportunity to speak briefly about their respective organizations and the challenges they are facing. The talk show format provided an open forum to discuss the impact of clinical, administrative, and legislative areas affecting the post-acute and long-term care continuum. This year focused on the need to collaborate as like-minded organizations by combining resources to strengthen how care is delivered across the state.

FMDA President Dr. Leonard Hock is enthusiastic about the growing success of Best Care Practices and the number of high-interest and high-relevance lectures delivered each year.

“As president of FMDA, I am extremely proud of the high quality education and networking opportunities that we provide to post-acute and long-term care practitioners in Florida and across the country,” he said. “As practitioners, we come together to learn and ask questions, and the Best Care Practices conference provides a unique forum in which that can be accomplished.”

Conference attendee, Gianfranco Valle, MD, CMD from Cincinnati, OH offered these thoughts on his experience this year. “Best Care Practices is well organized with excellent speakers and offers ample time to network. I felt welcomed among colleagues and other like-minded professionals.”

Susan Koster, an advanced registered nurse practitioner from Jacksonville, commented, “It was a wonderful and very well-planned program this year with timely sessions and great food. I look forward to returning next year.”

For more information about next year’s Best Care Practices Conference taking place at Disney’s *Grand Floridian Resort*, October 13-16, 2016, please contact FMDA’s Senior Manager of Association Services, Matt Reese at (561) 689-6321 or by email at [mattr@fmda.org](mailto:mattr@fmda.org).

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**FMDA – The Florida Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine** represents nearly 250 medical directors, attending physicians, physician assistants, and advanced practice nurses in Florida’s post-acute care continuum including subacute care, hospice, skilled nursing, and assisted living facilities, as well as in continuing care retirement communities. The mission of FMDA is to promote the highest quality care as patients’ transition through the post-acute and long term care continuum. FMDA is dedicated to providing leadership, professional education and advocacy for the inter-professional team.

FMDA is the official state chapter AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine and a Specialty Society of the Florida Medical Association. It is based in West Palm Beach, Florida.