



For Immediate Release

Feb. 14, 2017

Contact: Ian Cordes, Executive Director

FMDA – The Florida Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine

(561) 689-6321; ian.cordes@fmda.org

www.fmda.org

Bylaws Change Embraces Pharmacists as Voting Members

Dr. Rick Foley appointed to represent pharmacists on the board of directors.

West Palm Beach, Fla. - FMDA – The Florida Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care (PA/LTC) Medicine is proud to announce that at its annual meeting on Oct. 14, its members voted unanimously to change its bylaws to include pharmacists as voting members. This reflects the longstanding presence of consultant pharmacists and clinical pharmacists collaborating with medical directors, attending physicians, advanced practice nurses, and physician assistants in the PA/LTC continuum.

FMDA President Dr. Hock is very excited about this natural progression of inclusion. “Over the years, our pharmacist colleagues have made a huge contribution to the quality of care of our patients,” he said. “We invite pharmacists to consider FMDA their professional home alongside the other practitioners of the inter-professional team,” Hock added.

Pharmacists have supported FMDA for many years and have contributed greatly to its success. One such individual, has just been unanimously appointed by the board of directors to sit as a director on behalf of its pharmacist members.

Congratulations are extended to Rick Foley, PharmD, CPh, BCGP, FASCP; clinical professor of geriatrics at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy and a full-time consultant pharmacist for nine nursing homes in Central Florida. A fellow of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, Dr. Foley is president of the Florida Chapter of American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, member of FMDA’s CME/Education Committee, and co-chair of FMDA’s Quality Advocacy Coalition. He has practiced as a consultant pharmacist for Omnicare since 1999.

“Rick has been so supportive that it is no surprise that he will be the one to welcome pharmacists home to FMDA,” said Dr. Hock.

“We sincerely congratulate Dr. Foley for this appointment and thank him for his ongoing support of the inter-professional framework under which FMDA operates,” added Dr. John Symeonides, chairman of the board.

FMDA is the largest chapter of AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, and is comprised of medical directors, attending physicians, advanced practice nurses, consultant pharmacists, registered pharmacists, nurse administrators, and nursing home administrators of skilled nursing facilities. All of these disciplines make FMDA one of the most dynamic and diverse PA/LTC associations in the state of Florida.

FMDA is celebrating its 26th Annual Conference during Best Care Practices in the Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Continuum 2017, October 12-15, at Disney's *Grand Floridian* in Orlando. Please visit www.bestcarepractices.org for more information.

###

FMDA – The Florida Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine represents medical directors, attending physicians, advanced practice nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, nurse administrators and nursing home administrators in Florida's post-acute continuum including subacute care, hospice, skilled nursing, and assisted living facilities, as well as in continuing care retirement communities.

The mission of FMDA, The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, 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 and largest state chapter of 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.