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Contact: Ian Cordes, Executive Director
Florida Medical Directors Association
(561) 659-5581, ian.cordes@fmda.org
www.fmda.org

FMDA Installs New Board at ‘Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2009’

— Annual Conference Exceeds Expectations

West Palm Beach, Fla. — Florida Medical Directors Association (FMDA) recently hosted its highly successful 18th annual conference, which gathered more than 335 long-term care (LTC) practitioners at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) president Dr. David Brechtelsbauer installed the new slate of officers – most notably, Dr. Hugh Thomas as president and Dr. Carl Suchar as chairman of the board. Drs. Thomas and Suchar have had very influential roles in the shaping of FMDA and the organization is primed to benefit from their continued leadership.

Dr. Thomas, the chair of FMDA’s membership committee for the past four years, has put extensive time and effort in establishing FMDA as one of the leading organizations in LTC. As president, Dr. Thomas will remain entrenched in the issues that affect long-term care providers. “As president of FMDA,” says Dr. Thomas, “I look forward to facing the issues that affect LTC and geriatrics in the state of Florida, and promoting our organization as an effective resource and sounding board for our members and other health care providers, so that they can provide the best possible medical care to our seniors.”

Dr. Suchar is a past-president of FMDA and a former program director for the nationally recognized “Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum” conference. He has worked diligently to establish this conference as a national model and to catapult FMDA into one of the most respected LTC membership societies in the state. As chairman of the board, Dr. Suchar looks to grow the organization even more and keep FMDA at the forefront of advancing geriatric care.

Other officers installed by Dr. Brechtelsbauer included John Symeonides, MD, CMD, as vice-president; and Daniel Fortier, MD, CMD, as secretary/treasurer; as well as five directors: Karl Dhana, MD, CMD; Victor Gambone, MD, CMD; Leonard Hock, DO, CMD; Naushira Pandya, MD, CMD; and Rhonda Randal, DO.

FMDA was honored to have the AMDA president officiate at the installation of the officers and directors. During the ceremony, Dr. Brechtelsbauer offered these words; “FMDA is a leader in LTC and remains one of the most influential chapters of AMDA in the interest of best care practices and optimizing patient health in the geriatrics continuum.”

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Photo Caption #1: AMDA president Dr. David Brechtelsbauer (center) swears in the new FMDA president Dr. Hugh Thomas (left), as the outgoing president, Dr. John Potomski, looks on.

Photo Caption #2: AMDA president Dr. David Brechtelsbauer (right) swears in Dr. Carl Suchar as the new FMDA chairman of the board.

Started in 1990, the Florida Medical Directors Association is the official state chapter of the American Medical Directors Association and is a Specialty Society of the Florida Medical Association. It is based in West Palm Beach, Fla.

The FMDA represents more than 325 medical directors, attending physicians, physician assistants, and advanced registered nurse practitioners in Florida’s postacute 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 in the postacute continuum by providing leadership, professional education, and advocacy.