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Vermont Medical Society Taps New Officers

Stephen Leffler, M.D., named president of state physicians' association

Montpelier, Vt. (Oct. 31, 2018) – **Stephen Leffler, M.D.**, was named president of the Vermont Medical Society (VMS) during its 205th annual meeting October 27th, in Stowe, Vt.

Dr. Leffler is the chief population health and quality officer for the University of Vermont Medical Center and oversees the coordination of population health programs for the six hospitals in the UVM Health Network. He is the former chief medical officer at UVM Medical Center and currently he serves as a board member for OneCare Vermont.

As president of VMS, Dr. Leffler will take a lead role in the Society's public policy efforts in Montpelier and Washington, D.C. Priorities during the upcoming year include bolstering prevention efforts for Vermont's youth, supporting the practice of primary care and reducing administrative burdens facing Vermont physician practices.

"This is both a great and a difficult time to be a physician in Vermont," said Dr. Leffler. "Our state is routinely named as the healthiest in the country, physicians have a strong voice within our communities and we are starting to turn the tide on the opioid epidemic. At the same time, physicians face increasing data-collection pressures and social isolation, as we are busier than ever, yet seeing fewer patients. VMS can be a collective voice to our state to advocate for what our patients and practices need to be healthy and successful."

Dr. Leffler received his medical degree from the UVM College of Medicine and completed his residency training in emergency medicine at the University of New Mexico before joining the UVM/Fletcher Allen faculty in 1993. He also earned a Master of Health Care Delivery Science degree from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. He continues to provide patient care in the UVM Medical Center's Emergency Department and spends much of his time at partner hospitals in the UVM Health Network.

Also, during the meeting, VMS members elected **Catherine Schneider, M.D., and Simha Ravven, M.D.**, president-elect and vice president, respectively.

Dr. Schneider, is the section chief of surgical services at Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center in Windsor, Vt., and currently chairs the Vermont Statewide Surgical Services Collaborative. She is the former chief medical officer of Mt. Ascutney Hospital, a position she held from 2011- 2014.

Dr. Schneider earned a bachelor's degree in biology/premed from the University of Scranton, Pa., and medical degree from New Jersey Medical School. She did her surgical residency at UMDNJ in New Jersey and fellowship in minimally invasive surgery at the Institute for Minimally Invasive Surgery in White Plains, N.Y. She earned a master's degree in management, health care administration from New England College in 2006.

Dr. Ravven, M.D. is the Interim Chief Medical Officer at the Brattleboro Retreat and clinical assistant professor of psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine.

Dr. Ravven graduated from the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, completed her psychiatric residency at Cambridge Health Alliance and served as a Clinical Fellow at Harvard Medical School. She completed her Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship at Yale University and subsequently served as Medical Director of the Retreat's Birches Treatment Center (PHP and IOP) prior to returning to Yale in 2016 to pursue various academic, research, and clinical interests. Dr. Ravven returned to the Retreat in August 2017.

About the Vermont Medical Society: The Vermont Medical Society is the leading voice of physicians in the state and is dedicated to advancing the practice of

medicine by advocating on behalf of Vermont's doctors and the patients and communities they care for. The Society serves its 2,000 members through public policy advocacy on the state and federal levels, as well as by providing legal, administrative and educational support, producing a rich flow of news and information and offering member benefits that increase medical practice effectiveness and efficiency. For more information, visit www.VTMD.org.