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Dean Hoppmann Honors Medical School Faculty and Staff

Ten faculty and staff affiliated with the University of South Carolina School of Medicine have been awarded the Dean's Distinguished Service Medal.

School of Medicine Dean Richard Hoppmann presented the awards, which recognize outstanding contributions to students, patient care, the community and the medical school, Wednesday (Oct. 11).

"When you have such wonderful, talented people as these individuals, you can rest assured that the University of South Carolina School of Medicine is in very good hands," Hoppmann said. "Each of these individuals has had an impact on patient care and students' success and been a role model, not just for people going into medicine, but also for their colleagues and everyone whose lives they have touched."

Honorees are Dr. Wayne Carver, professor in the department of cell and developmental biology and anatomy and director of the SOM Graduate Program; Dr. Jeanette Ford, registrar and administrator in the Office of Admissions, Dr. Deborah Greenhouse, clinical associate professor and a physician in the department of pediatrics; John Magill, a clinical professor in the department of neuropsychiatry and behavioral science and director of the S.C. Department of Mental Health; Dr. Tan Platt, a clinical professor and a physician in the department of family and preventive medicine; Dr. Jim Raymond, senior vice president and chief medical officer of Palmetto Health and associate dean and professor of clinical medicine; Dr. Rodney Reid, a clinical faculty member and associate chief of medicine at the Dorn VA Medical Center; Dr. Leigh Watson, director of the internal medicine clerkship at the USC School of Medicine Greenville; Robert Watson, director of the Office of Information Technology; Maggie Wentzky, medical student services coordinator at the USC School of Medicine Greenville.

Carver has been a teacher, researcher, and an administrator and has earned national recognition for his research in cardiovascular disease. He was singled out for his absolute commitment to the SOM and his

willingness to always step forward when the medical school needed his expertise and assistance regardless of the task.

Ford was recognized for not only running a highly efficient and professional office, but also for creating a welcoming environment for applicants and students by doing everything from planting flowers to giving each one her undivided attention. Greenhouse is a resident continuity preceptor and has served on many department and Children`s Hospital committees. She welcomes students to her office virtually every week, giving them a chance to experience general pediatric practice, Hoppmann said.

Magill was cited for his unflinching support of the medical school and his efforts to strengthen the partnership between the USC and the S.C. Department of Mental Health. "He believes in the importance of education if the state is to continue to provide quality mental healthcare to its citizens both now and in the future," Hoppmann said.

Platt joined the department of family and preventive medicine in 1986 and has served as vice chairman of the department and as president of the Educational Trust Board for three terms. He is a recipient of the S.C. Family Physician of the Year Award. He is known as an outstanding clinician, and a wonderful faculty member and role model, Hoppmann said.

Hoppmann called Raymond an accomplished clinician, an astute administrator, and a true academician with a strong commitment to medical education. Leigh Watson is known as an outstanding clinician and teacher and a strong student advocate and a superb role model for students, residents, and faculty. Hoppmann said.

Reid, who joined the VA in 1993, was singled out for his many contributions to the medical school, including his service on the Admissions Committee, his work with the Office of Minority Affairs and his interests in the well-being and careers of students and residents.

Robert Watson joined the SOM in 1987 as a systems supervisor and has overseen the development and implementation of the SOM computer network. Hoppmann said he has "the rare combination of ultimate geek knowledge and great interpersonal skills."

Wentzky, who oversees a variety of activities and deals with all kinds of student issues, has earned the respect and admiration of colleagues and students alike, Hoppmann said. "She has played a major role in making the Greenville medical program the excellent teaching center and student friendly place it is today," he said.

The awards are given every other year.

