



SAINT LUKE'S HEALTH SYSTEM

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## NEWS

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### **Alan D. Forker, M.D., to be honored with Mastership by American College of Physicians**

*Physician recognized by peers for achievements in medicine*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The American College of Physicians (ACP) will honor Alan D. Forker, M.D., with advancement to Mastership during its annual Convocation ceremony Thursday, April 23, 2009.

Dr. Forker is the director of Outpatient Lipid Diabetes Research at Saint Luke's Hospital and has chaired the Institutional Review Board for clinical research at Saint Luke's Hospital since 2006. He became a Fellow of the American College of Physicians in 1975 and in 2001 received ACP's Laurette Award for outstanding achievement in leadership and education.

Dr. Forker received his medical degree from the University of Kansas in 1964, and completed an internal medicine residency and cardiology fellowship at the Mayo Clinic. He is a professor of medicine at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), where he was Chief of Cardiology, Truman Medical Center, from 1990-2000. He directed the cardiology fellowship between UMKC and Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute from 1990-2008. He has led several state organizations for the American College of Cardiology and the American Hospital Association and been on numerous clinical, administrative, and educational committees for those organizations and the ACP. He has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals, and continues to be very active in graduate medical education locally, as well as continuing medical education in cardiology, diabetes, and vascular disease, especially in the Midwest.

ACP President Jeffrey P. Harris, MD, FACP, an internist and nephrologist from Millwood, Va., will preside over the Convocation, during which 48 new Masterships will be conferred, 18

awards will be presented, and more than 500 newly inducted Fellows of ACP (“FACP”s) will be recognized.

The American College of Physicians is the nation’s largest organization of medical specialists.

Mastership is the highest attainable level of membership in the American College of Physicians. It is achieved only by nomination. Just over 600 internists and internal medicine subspecialists in the world currently hold the Mastership designation. According to ACP bylaws, Masters are elected “on account of personal character, positions of honor, contributions toward furthering the purposes of the ACP, eminence in practice or in medical research, or other attainments in science or in the art of medicine.”

Election to Mastership in ACP recognizes outstanding and extraordinary career accomplishments. Masters must have made a notable contribution to medicine. This includes, but is not limited to teaching, outstanding work in clinical medicine (research or practice), contributions to preventive medicine, improvements in the delivery of health care, and/or contributions to the medical literature.

To be elected to Mastership, ACP involvement is expected, with rare exceptions. This includes service to the ACP in an official capacity, participation in chapter activities, and/or contributions to the development of College products and educational programs. Volunteer and community service is also taken into consideration.

Throughout the year, highly distinguished Fellows of ACP are nominated for Mastership by ACP members and others familiar with their backgrounds. Each fall, a select group of these Fellows are chosen from among the nominees by the ACP Awards Committee and approved by the ACP Board of Regents. The title of Master of the American College of Physicians (“MACP” or “M.A.C.P.”) is bestowed upon the recipient in the spring.

Levels of ACP membership are Medical Student Member, Associate, Member, Fellow, Honorary Fellow, and Master. Fellows of the American College of Physicians have been recommended by their peers, endorsed by their local ACP chapter Governors, and reviewed by a national credentials subcommittee.

*Saint Luke's Health System consists of 11 area hospitals and many primary care practices, and provides a range of inpatient, outpatient, and home care services. Founded as a faith-based, not-for-profit organization, our mission includes a commitment to the highest levels of excellence in health care and the advancement of medical research and education. The health system is an aligned organization in which the physicians and hospitals assume responsibility for enhancing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of people in the metropolitan Kansas City area and the surrounding region.*

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