



American College of  
Preventive Medicine

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*NEWS*  
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**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE MOURNS THE LOSS OF  
RON DAVIS, MD, AMA PAST PRESIDENT**  
*Medical and public health communities lose an inspirational leader*

Washington, DC – The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM), along with thousands of health professionals and organizations in the medical and public health communities, today is mourning the loss of Ronald M. Davis, MD, MS, FACPM, an extraordinary leader in the field of preventive medicine and the Immediate Past President of the American Medical Association. Dr. Davis, 52, passed away yesterday at his home near East Lansing, MI, after his open and touching battle with pancreatic cancer.

“Ron exemplified and elevated what preventive medicine is all about,” according to ACPM President Michael D. Parkinson, MD, MPH, FACPM. “His special skill was turning epidemiological data into action for communities, organizations, and patients. He never stopped practicing, teaching, and learning his craft, and continued to touch us and teach us during his illness.”

Dr. Davis made his mark in organized medicine, rising to the ranks of AMA President in 2007. His professional contributions included directing the Henry Ford Health System’s Center for Health Promotion & Disease Prevention, Chairing the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee, serving as Medical Director for the Michigan Department of Public Health, directing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Office on Smoking and Health, serving as editor for *Tobacco Control: An International Journal* and North American Editor for *British Medical Journal*, and maintaining adjunct faculty appointments at University of Michigan School of Public Health, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, and Wayne State University School of Medicine.

In addition to his professional achievements, he served the field of preventive medicine and ACPM with distinction. He was one of the nation’s leading experts in and advocates for tobacco

prevention and control, and represented or led numerous tobacco prevention activities on behalf of ACPM. In addition to being a long-time member of ACPM's policy committee, he served as ACPM's alternate-delegate then delegate to the AMA for 14 years, and received three of ACPM's most prestigious awards—Distinguished Service, Special Recognition, and KBS Guest Lecturer.

In fact, it was the KBS Guest Lecture at ACPM's *Preventive Medicine 2008* conference in February 2008 that most typified Dr. Davis' character and his penchant for "walking the talk." Less than two weeks after battling severe illness and receiving his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, he delivered a rousing 70-minute keynote speech titled "A Prescription for our Nation's Prevention Deficit Disorder" while walking on a workstation treadmill—intended to drive home the importance of physical activity and how one can achieve fitness without extraordinary sacrifice.

"We have lost a great leader, but the world is a better place, and countless lives have been saved or improved because of Ron's work," said ACPM Executive Director Michael Barry. "Those who knew him best knew that his professional talents were only the tip of the iceberg. He was one of the most personable, gentle, and caring individuals you would ever meet. On behalf of the entire ACPM community, our thoughts and prayers go to Ron's wife Nadine, his three sons, and his extended family during this most difficult time."

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The American College of Preventive Medicine is the national medical specialty society representing physicians committed to health promotion and disease prevention. Founded in 1954, ACPM provides leadership in research, professional education, development of public policy, and enhancement of standards of preventive medicine. In addition to physicians Board-certified in preventive medicine, ACPM's members include physicians Board-certified in other medical specialties who have a strong interest in health promotion and disease prevention. For more information about ACPM, visit [www.acpm.org](http://www.acpm.org).