
Media Release

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LSMS PRESENTS PHYSICIAN COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS:
JUAN J. GERSHANIK, MD, OF NEW ORLEANS, HONORED

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana—The Louisiana State Medical Society (LSMS) honored **Juan J. Gershanik, MD, of New Orleans**, at its annual meeting January 30, 2015, with the 2014 LSMS Physician Award for Community Service.

Dr. Gershanik is the medical director of Newborn Services and is vice-chair of the Pediatrics Department at West Jefferson Medical Center. He also serves as a clinical professor of Pediatrics at the Tulane University School of Medicine. The award was established to provide recognition to a member who is actively involved in community and civic activities above and beyond their responsibilities in the practice of medicine. Some of his outstanding professional and community service efforts include:

- As head of the Neonatology Section at the LSU School of Medicine in Shreveport in 1971, he developed the first neonatal intensive care unit with an organized transport system for sick newborns in the state of Louisiana.
- When Katrina struck New Orleans, he assisted in evacuating NICU babies from Memorial (Baptist) Hospital to Woman’s Hospital in Baton Rouge.
- He led medical teams that participated in trade missions to Honduras, Panama, and Costa Rica.
- Served on various councils and commissions, including the Louisiana State Early Identification of Hearing Impaired Infants Advisory Council, the Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund, the Latino Commission, the Health Educational Authority of Louisiana, the Louisiana Advisory Committee on Midwifery, the Advisory Council to the Dean of the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and others.
- In addition, he serves as a board member of many non-profit organizations such as the Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse of Greater New Orleans, the Hispanic American Medical Association of Louisiana and the March of Dimes. He also hosted health educational programs on Spanish radio and TV.

“The LSMS is proud to bestow this honor on Dr. Gershanik,” said LSMS President Dr. Dolleen Licciardi. “We appreciate his time and personal investment in the community, as well as the positive reflection his service brings to the medical profession.”

About Louisiana State Medical Society

Established in 1878, the Louisiana State Medical Society (LSMS) serves as the premier advocate for patients and physicians. The LSMS is the largest voluntary physician organization in the state and represents all specialties.

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Photo caption: Dr. Juan Gershanik (right) receives his LSMS Community Service Award plaque from LSMS Immediate Past President Dr. Roberto Quintal (left).