

Press Release

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Maine Primary Care Association recognizes Dr. Karen Roberts of Fish River Rural Health with the inaugural Karen J. Hallee, MD Memorial Award for New Medical Professionals

Representatives of Maine Primary Care Association presented Dr. Roberts with the Karen J. Hallee, MD Memorial Award for New Medical Professionals before her peers and co-workers at FRRH's annual staff retreat on January 12, 2008.

In recognizing Dr. Roberts' achievement, Norman Fournier, Executive Director of Fish River Rural Health said, "Dr. Roberts displays Karen Hallee's love of medicine and the hardworking, dedicated traits that Karen Hallee exhibited throughout her life. Dr. Roberts' passion for medicine became evident to us when she first interviewed for FRRH's medical provider vacancy in 2004. She came across as a caring, warm and compassionate individual that loves life and is ready to give to others. She is committed to improving access, health outcomes, community wellness and overall community welfare. Her drive and willingness to "lend a helping hand" or volunteer her services for countless community activities were evident long before joining the FRRH healthcare team."

Maine Primary Care Association initiated the Karen Hallee, MD Memorial Award for New Medical Professionals following the untimely loss of Dr. Hallee in 2007. The award is open to all primary care providers in their first five years of practice and recognizes clinicians demonstrating the level of dedication to the community being served, passion for medicine, and commitment to serving the underserved of Maine that Dr. Hallee exemplified.

Prior to becoming a doctor, Karen worked at MPCA in the 1990s as the SEARCH Coordinator, where she placed medical students and residents in rotations across the state. It was Karen's love of medicine that took her back to school where she graduated from UVM and then conducted her residency at Maine Medical Center in Portland.

Maine Primary Care Association is the membership organization for Maine's primary care safety net. At its core, Maine's primary care safety net consists of its Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), also known as community health centers. These nonprofit, consumer-directed, community-based providers of care extend the highest quality and cost-effective primary care services to everyone, especially Maine's medically underserved and uninsured. Across the country FQHCs include Community Health Centers, Migrant Health Centers, Health Care for the Homeless programs, and Public Housing Primary Care programs.

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