



IHS-09-2003
May 1, 2003

Indian Health Service Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IHS Physician Selected As 2003 Arizona Family Physician of the Year

*and among five finalists for
2004 American Academy of Family Physicians national Family Physician of the Year*

Eric Ossowski, M.D., a family practice medical officer at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC), Indian Health Service, an agency in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), was awarded Arizona's 2003 Family Physician of the Year Award. The presentation was made by the Arizona Academy of Family Physicians (AzAFP) at their awards reception during the 2003 Academy Clinical Education Conference in Tucson on April 26, 2003.

"Dr. Ossowski is a doctor whose professionalism, dedication, and enthusiasm for healing extend beyond the bedside of those he cares for and to their families and communities," said Charles W. Grim, Interim IHS Director. "This award is a fitting tribute to Dr. Ossowski's character and compassion. His 23 years of service to American Indian and Alaska Native people has been exemplary."

Dr. Ossowski is the Chief of Family and Primary Care Medicine and the Acting Chief of Internal Medicine for the Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC) in Phoenix, Arizona. He was selected for the award for demonstrating compassionate care, community involvement, and providing a credible and professional role model to colleagues, other health professionals, and especially to young physicians in training. In addition, he has been selected as one of five finalists for the 2004 Family Physician of the Year Award for the American Academy of Family Physicians.

"The tireless work he performs and his outstanding ability to manage administrative duties and also see patients, confirms Dr. Ossowski as an outstanding physician and a deserving recipient of this award," stated Anna Albert, Director of the PIMC. "He has also demonstrated his enthusiasm for what he does through mentoring to others who have an interest in health careers in American Indian communities."

Dr. Ossowski began his career with the Indian Health Service in 1980 at the PIMC in Phoenix, Arizona. Until 1988, he served as Deputy Chief of the Family and Primary Care Medicine at PIMC. In the past he has provided primary care at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Health Clinic and at the Gila Bend Primary Care Clinic in the IHS Phoenix Area. He has served with the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps from 1980 until the present and holds the rank of Captain.

Dr. Ossowski graduated from Bethlehem Academy High School in Faribault, Minnesota; he went on to major in pre-medicine and psychology at the University of Minnesota Medical schools in Minneapolis and Duluth in 1977. He completed his postgraduate education in 1980 at Duluth Family Practice Residency.



NOTICE TO EDITORS: For additional information on this subject or to arrange an interview with Dr. Ossowski, please contact the IHS Public Affairs Office at 301-443-3593.

Additional information about the IHS is available on the IHS website <http://www.ihs.gov> and <http://info.ihs.gov>

