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# Indian Health Service Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## IHS Physician Selected As 2004 National Family Physician of the Year

Eric Ossowski, M.D., a family practice medical officer at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC) of the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency in the Department of Health and Human Services, has been selected as the 2004 National Family Physician of the Year. The award presentation is being made at the American Academy of Family Physicians Scientific Assembly this week in New Orleans, Louisiana.

"Dr. Ossowski is a dedicated doctor who has consistently provided outstanding service to his patients and their families, and the community he serves," Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson said. "He is an outstanding example of the high caliber of health care professionals working through our Indian Health Service."

Dr. Ossowski is the Chief of Family and Primary Care Medicine and the Acting Chief of Internal Medicine for the PIMC in Phoenix, Arizona. He was selected for demonstrating compassionate care, maintaining community involvement, and providing a credible and professional role model to colleagues and other health professionals, especially to young physicians in training.

"This award is a well-deserved recognition of Dr. Ossowski's professionalism, compassion, and commitment to improving the health status of American Indian and Alaska Native people through the provision of quality health care," stated Charles W. Grim, IHS Director. "In making medical decisions, he consciously considers and respects all aspects of a patient's life, including their culture, family, and medical history. This award acknowledges the 23 years of culturally sensitive and medically competent care he has provided to American Indian and Alaska Native people."

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 since 1980 and presently holds the rank of Captain.

In addition to his many awards, Dr. Ossowski received the USPHS Commendation Medal in 1987 and 1993, the Achievement Medal in 1995, the Phoenix Area Clinical Employee of the Year Award in 2002, and was selected as the Arizona Physician of the Year by the American Academy of Family Physicians in April 2003.

Dr. Ossowski attended the University of Minnesota Duluth, majoring in psychology and pre-med. He earned his medical degree from the University of Minnesota Medical School in Duluth, Minneapolis, in 1977. He completed his residency at Duluth Family Practice Residency in 1980.



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>

