



**Arkansas Methodist
Medical Center**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

AMMC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED WITH TWO AWARDS

PARAGOULD, AR --Arkansas Methodist Medical Center's Emergency Department has been recognized with two awards from the Schumacher Group, an emergency management firm committed to patient-centered emergency care.

AMMC received the organization's Best Practices Award and Medical Director of the Year Award for 2009 over hospital emergency rooms represented in the Midwest region encompassing Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky and West Virginia.

In its eighth year, the annual awards were presented at a two-day conference at The Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, by Dr. Paul Veach, regional medical officer of the Midwest region for the Schumacher Group and president of the Arkansas chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP).

AMMC received the Best Practices Award based on:

- Improvement in specific metrics including (length of stay, patient entrance to specific exam times, decrease in patients who leave prior to being treated, and improved patient satisfaction initiatives);
- Improvement in the operational flow of the entire emergency department;
- Staff involvement in improvements; and,
- Applying the recommended "best practices" from across the country to improve the entire emergency department experience for patients.

As Medical Director of the Year for 2009, AMMC's Dr. Michael Johnson was recognized as:

- A director who exemplifies the areas of management, operations, leadership and clinical excellence; and,
- Is actively involved in leading the areas of process improvement and analysis of the specific operational metrics listed above and incorporating the appropriate change metrics to improve the patient-care experience.

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“It is an honor to be recognized with the Medical Director of the Year Award and for our entire team to be recognized with the Best Practices Award,” Dr. Johnson said. “At AMMC, we work diligently every day to ensure that our patients who come into the ER receive the best in leading-edge care with a compassionate patient-centered focus.”

According to the Schumacher Group, this year marks only the second time that both the Best Practices Award and the Medical Director of the Year Award have been presented to the same facility, “proving that Arkansas Methodist and the ED physician team have collaboratively shown dedication to continually improve the process of emergency medicine in providing quality healthcare to the communities it serves.”

The Schumacher Group was founded by William C. Schumacher, M.D., a board certified emergency medicine physician who remains owner and CEO. During his 15 years as an emergency department medical director, developed a unique approach to emergency department management focused on: complete commitment to quality patient care, dignity and respect for all, patient satisfaction, physician leadership, professional management, physician/hospital cooperation, physician-supervised staffing, value-added services and cost efficiency.

A recognized leader, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould provides progressive, compassionate healthcare to residents throughout Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. Additional information about AMMC is available at: www.arkansasmethodist.org.