

Date: April 20, 2016

## Emergency Physician Advocacy Award Presented at EM Leadership Forum to Joan Papp, MD, FACEP

Columbus, OH—On April 19, at the Emergency Medicine Leadership Forum, the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (Ohio ACEP) was pleased to present the 2016 *Emergency Physician Advocacy Award* to a remarkable physician advocate, **Joan Papp, MD, FACEP**.

Ohio ACEP established the *Emergency Physician Advocacy Award* to celebrate leadership in legislative advocacy efforts on behalf of emergency medicine. Recipients of the award advocate for their specialty, their communities, and their patients.

Dr. Joan Papp, an Assistant Professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and an attending physician at MetroHealth Medical Center, perfectly embodies these criteria. Having successfully supported bills before the Ohio General Assembly, Dr. Papp has demonstrated the power of a dedicated physician advocate.

Dr. Papp has been on the front lines of confronting the devastating opioid abuse epidemic – one of the biggest public health crises in years. As Medical Director of Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone), she has tirelessly championed programs to make the opioid overdose reversal drug naloxone more widely available.

Seeing the lifesaving potential of the drug while working in her own emergency department, she recognized more could be done to expand distribution programs in the state. Expanding these programs, however, was hampered by administrative requirements which forced many at-risk Ohioans and their loved ones to travel long distances to counties where naloxone programs are active.

Dr. Papp successfully championed legislation to remove these barriers and empower communities to establish their own naloxone programs. This legislation, which passed the Ohio General Assembly without a single “no” vote, was signed into law last year.

At a time when overdoses have surpassed motor vehicle collisions as the nation’s number one cause of accidental death, Dr. Papp’s efforts have undoubtedly saved lives. Ohio ACEP congratulates Dr. Joan Papp on her well-deserved accolade!

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Ohio ACEP is a state medical specialty society representing emergency medicine physicians with more than 1,400 members. For more than 40 years, Ohio ACEP has served the state’s emergency physicians through tireless advocacy, nationally-recognized continuing medical education, and physician leadership development.

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**Joan Papp, MD,  
FACEP**

Recipient of the 2016  
Emergency Physician  
Advocacy Award