

News from the Massachusetts Medical Society

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Frederica Williams, President and CEO of Whittier Street Health Center, is honored by the Massachusetts Medical Society

Waltham – June 17 – Frederica Williams, president and chief executive officer of the Whittier Street Health Center in Roxbury, has been honored by the Massachusetts Medical Society as the recipient of the organization's inaugural Men's Health Award. The honor, given to an individual who has advanced the cause of men's health, was presented at the Society's 6th Annual Symposium on Men's Health on June 17 at the Medical Society in Waltham.

Ms. Williams was recognized for her efforts since joining the Whittier Street Health Center in 2002. Since that time, the center has more than doubled the number of people served. She has expanded the reach of the center's core medical and social services, improving the health of thousands of diverse uninsured and underinsured populations. She has established programs to address health disparities and population-specific issues, including the largest men's health clinic in New England serving all men, especially low-income and uninsured Black and Latino males.

In recognizing Ms. Williams, David Dodson, M.D., chair of the Massachusetts Medical Society's Committee on Men's Health, said she "has shown great leadership in the area of men's health, establishing a men's health clinic at Whittier Street, directing men's health community outreach to Roxbury and the neighboring South Bay Correction Center, and organizing the annual Men's Health Summit at the Reggie Lewis Center in collaboration with Roxbury Community College, the City of Boston, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. We are proud to present Ms. Williams with our first-ever Men's Health Award."

The Whittier Street Health Center offers a wide range of individual and family medical and social services and offers specialized clinics in such areas as diabetes, asthma, and healthy weight. The center serves 12,000 individuals annually and is one of only two Refugee Assessment Sites in Boston. The staff speaks 17 languages in serving a culturally diverse population in Boston.

The Massachusetts Medical Society, with some 22,000 physicians and student members, is dedicated to educating and advocating for the patients and physicians of Massachusetts. The Society publishes the New England Journal of Medicine, a leading global medical journal and web site, and Journal Watch alerts and newsletters covering 13 specialties. The Society is also a leader in continuing medical education for health care professionals throughout Massachusetts, conducting a variety of medical education programs for physicians and health care professionals. Founded in 1781, MMS is the oldest continuously operating medical society in the country. For more information please visit www.massmed.org, www.nejm.org, or www.jwatch.org. ###

Caption: Whittier Street Health Center colleagues celebrate Frederica William's honor as the first recipient of the Mass. Medical Society's Men's Health Award. From left: Dumas F. Lafontant, Habib Sioufi, M.D., Ms. Willams; David Dodson, M.D., Chair of the Mass. Medical Society's Men's Health Committee; Dalton Skerritt; and Timothy Potsaid.