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## Local Psychiatrist Honored for Excellence in Teaching

FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, July 1, 2008... Christopher D. Gordon, M.D. of Natick received the Edward Messner Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Massachusetts General Hospital/McLean Adult Psychiatry Residency Program graduation ceremony on June 22.

Dr. Gordon is vice president of clinical services and medical director of Advocates, Inc., a leading human services provider headquartered in Framingham. He also is actively involved in teaching in the Residency Training Program of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and in the Combined Residency Program at Massachusetts General and McLean Hospitals.

The Edward Messner Award for Excellence in Teaching was established in 2006 to honor and commemorate the teaching career of Dr. Edward Messner, who taught generations of psychiatrists at Massachusetts General Hospital for 46 years, up to the time of his death in 2006 at age 78 after a long battle with cancer. Seven times between 1978 and 2006, Massachusetts General psychiatry residents selected Dr. Messner, who was also associate clinical professor at Harvard Medical School, as their “outstanding teacher.”

“Ed Messner was one of my first and greatest teachers,” said Dr. Gordon. “He was a man of deep humility and compassion, gentle and kind.

“I am very proud to be the recipient of this Award.”

Dr. Gordon was praised by graduates during the Award presentation for being “the first to really teach us how to be *people* when in the room with a patient.

“He reminded us that, in any clinical situation, it is important to be respectful, empathetic and identify not only a patient’s pathology, but also their strengths.

“(Chris Gordon’s) style is easy and heartfelt, and we all look up to him as a clinician, teacher and mentor,” said Mia Pflieger, M.D. in presenting the Award.

Dr. Gordon joined Advocates, Inc. in 1995 as medical director. He earned his undergraduate degree at Antioch College, and his M.D. and doctorate in psychiatry from the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He completed his training in psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital, where he is an Assistant Psychiatrist. Dr. Gordon is also Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. He is a member of the American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association, the Massachusetts Medical Society and the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society.

Dr. Gordon received the Distinguished Service Award from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health in 2007, and has also been honored as a Distinguished Fellow by the American Psychiatric Association.

A frequent lecturer and presenter, Dr. Gordon has authored numerous articles appearing in psychiatric and medical journals, texts and publications. He has practiced in a variety of settings, including clinical outpatient and private practice, and has been a medical director of psychiatric hospitals and a clinical leader and care provider in a full-service mental health center offering crisis and emergency and outpatient and residential services.

He also currently serves as staff psychiatrist for the Metrowest Health System.

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