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**Judy A. Benson, MD, Awarded SCMS  
Physician Citizen of the Year for 2017**

The Spokane County Medical Society proudly announces Judy A. Benson, MD, as the recipient of the Physician Citizen of the Year award for 2017. Dr. Benson has taken on a number of lead positions wherein she has been the face of our medical community from the perspective of the Internal Medicine Residency, the Spokane County Medical Society, Providence Healthcare Director of Medical Education, and Deaconess President of the Medical staff. During her 30 years in this community, first as a private practitioner, and for the last couple of decades in education at the GME level, she has impacted hundreds of learners at the Graduate level of medical education and she has impacted thousands of patients.

She graduated from the University of Nebraska School of Medicine in 1983, and from the Spokane Internal Medicine Residency in 1987. She practiced internal medicine in the community while directing the Transitional Residency at Deaconess, before becoming Director of the Internal Medicine Residency in 2001, and continues to care for her patients in the clinic. Dr. Benson is a certified ACLS instructor who teaches the cohort of new interns every June, to be certain they are prepared to deal with emergencies that will arise during their training, as well as a certified High Reliability Trainer, working to reduce errors in medical practice in the hospital as well as the outpatient setting.

She joined the faculty of the Internal Medicine Residency program in 1993 and was the director of medical education at Deaconess for a decade until becoming the director of the Spokane Internal Medicine Residency in 2001. She was president of the medical staff at Deaconess 1998 through 2000. Dr. Benson also led the development of the Hospitalist program at Sacred Heart and was director of the faculty hospitalists from 2001 until 2010. She has now been the director of Graduate Medical Education in Spokane since 2012. In this role, she oversees and is responsible for ALL of the residency training programs in Spokane. More recently, with her leadership, the Spokane Teaching Health Clinic is a reality, opening in August 2016.

Through her dedication to medical education Dr. Benson has had a tremendous impact on so many physicians; it's hard to calculate the number of doctors, as well as patients, that she has influenced and touched in a positive manner. To quote one of the three physicians who nominated her, **"She is really like a pebble tossed into a pool, with ripples that extend far beyond the moment."**

Recipients of this award are nominated by their peers, and an independent entity reviews each nomination and selects the award recipient. Nominations are based and judged on five components:

- Contribution to public understanding and appreciation of the role of medicine, and to an improved public image of the medical profession and its members;
- Demonstration of high standards of competence, ethics and professionalism;
- Show outstanding ability in medicine;
- Work for the advancement of the medical profession; and
- Contribution to the betterment of our community and nation.

She has served in various capacities within the Spokane County Medical Society, including the Credentials Committee since 2010, the Medical Education Committee since 2015, and currently sits on the Board of Trustees. The Spokane County Medical Society is proud to award this honor to Dr. Judy Benson.