



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 2, 2003

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DR. GEORGE ELLIS RECEIVES HONOR

ORLANDO, Fla...Dr. George F. Ellis, M.D., M.M.M., F.A.C.S., chairman of Orange County's Primary Care Access Network (PCAN), is winner of the "Physician Political Leadership Award" for the Orlando area in *Florida Medical Business*' 14th Annual Medical Business Awards.

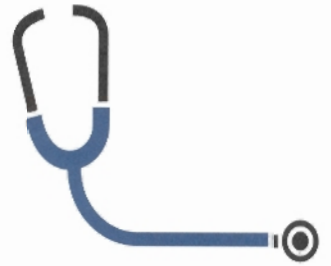
Dr. Ellis was nominated by the readers of *Florida Medical Business*, which is comprised of 44,000 physicians, hospital executives and other health care professionals in the state of Florida.

"I am proud to receive this award which recognizes both my career achievements and the current work I have done on behalf of PCAN," stated Dr. Ellis. "Being recognized by so many of my colleagues in this industry is quite an honor. The award is really for all of the member agencies of PCAN and the individuals who have worked so hard to make it happen."

Winners were judged by a panel of Florida health care leaders for their impact on the state's health care industry, having demonstrated economic and financial savvy, improved quality and cost-efficiency of health care delivery, and for their record of accomplishments in the industry.

Dr. Ellis began his medical career in 1982 in Syracuse, New York with residency in general

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surgery and urology. He received his master's degree from Tulane University and his doctorate degree from the University of Brussels in Belgium. Dr. Ellis is a member of a number of professional organizations including the American College of Surgeons, the American College of Physician Executives (ACPE) and the Florida Medical Association. He is also secretary of the Orange County Medical Society and is slated to become president in 2006. Over the course of his career, Dr. Ellis has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Physician Recognition Award in 1991 from the American Medical Association (AMA), the Humanitarian Physician Award in 2001 from *Florida Medical Business* and the General Motors WKMG Local Hero Award in 2001 from WKMG Local 6.

"*Florida Medical Business* continues its tradition of recognizing business leaders of the health community, of which Dr. Ellis is one," said Publisher and Managing Editor, Deborah Balshem. "This award is well-deserved."

The Primary Care Access Network is comprised of public and private health care providers committed to improving the access, quality, and coordination of health care services to the underinsured in Orange County. By developing an integrated, comprehensive system of primary care centers, PCAN intends to increase primary care capacity and reduce utilization of the local emergency departments by providing medical homes and teaching basic first aid to residents of Orange County.