



## NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT: Megan Brey  
mbrey@amda.com  
410-740-9743**

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### **Record Attendance, Cutting-Edge Programs Mark Long Term Care Medicine – 2011**

*Columbia, Md.* – AMDA Long Term Care Medicine – 2011, the annual conference of AMDA, attracted a record 1,652 attendees interested in hearing about cutting-edge issues in long term care. In spite of economic uncertainties and worries about the future of health care reform, attendees filled the Tampa Convention Center to learn about topics such as the newly implemented Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) policy changes, requirements for prescribing antipsychotic medications, as well as updates on heart disease, diabetes, and treatment innovations regarding Alzheimer's disease.

"See how far our organization has come," 2011-2012 AMDA President Karyn Leible, MD, CMD, told a standing-room-only crowd at the General Session on Saturday, March 26. "AMDA has been on the climb since its beginning in the 1970s. We continue to evolve as an organization to meet the growing and changing needs of our members and the patients we serve," she said.

Saturday's General Session addressed AMDA's top policy issues. Eric Tangalos, MD, FACP, AGSF, CMD, Chair of the AMDA Public Policy Committee, noted that AMDA is making progress on key policy issues such as long term care's inclusion in accountable care organization models. Dr. Tangalos stressed that AMDA's advocacy has focused consistently on the patient, pointing to AMDA's testimony at a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Listening Session regarding the recent trend of Medicare beneficiaries receiving extended observation care as hospital outpatients. "AMDA has been behind this right from the beginning," he said.

Sabine von Preyss-Friedman, MD, CMD, was named 2011 Medical Director of the Year. Upon accepting her award, Dr. von Preyss-Friedman, a medical director in the Seattle area, said, "This honor means a lot to me. AMDA and all of you have done much to teach and inspire me. I am just one example of all that medical directors do to serve our patients and our facilities."

Sunday featured educator, author, and caregiver Sarah Rowan presenting the Anne Marie Filkin Lecture. Ms. Rowan shared her experiences as a caregiver for her husband, who had Alzheimer's disease, recalling the pain of his diagnosis and finding creative ways to show her husband that she loved him.

In addition to over 70 program sessions, the meeting featured an exhibit hall with 67 exhibiting companies, numerous product theatres, peer-group roundtable discussions, model program and policies swap sessions, a job fair, and meetings of more than 25 state chapters.

Long Term Care Medicine – 2012 is set for March 8-11, 2012, in San Antonio, Tx.

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*AMDA – Dedicated to Long Term Care (formerly the American Medical Directors Association) is the national professional association of medical directors, attending physicians, and other professionals practicing long term care medicine committed to the continuous improvement of patient care. AMDA provides education, advocacy, information, and professional development enable its members to deliver quality long term care.*