

June R. O'Connor, MD, FACOG
2022 MMS/WDMS Community Clinician of the Year

Dr. O'Connor grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. and graduated cum laude from Boston University with a degree in Biology and Environmental Sciences. She then completed her medical degree at the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, Ireland and subsequent OB/GYN residency at Stamford Hospital, Stamford, Connecticut. She went on to work as a staff physician at the Fallon Clinic, Worcester, Massachusetts and then for UMassMemorial Medical group. Currently she is a partner at Women's Health of Central Massachusetts and performs surgeries and deliveries at UMassMemorial. For many years she has attended to patients with gynecologic problems from the St. Anne's and St. Peter's clinics. She has also worked at El Buen Samaritano Hospital in La Romana, Dominican Republic on mission trips to perform gynecologic surgeries for underserved Dominican and Haitian women. In addition, she is part of the Shrewsbury chapter of the Days for Girls International organization who sew reusable menstrual hygiene kits that allow girls to remain in school full time. These kits are then distributed worldwide. As part of the Dominican mission, these kits are brought and distributed to the Bateyes and orphanages in the La Romana area.

Robert W. Sorrenti, MD
2022 Editor's Award

Dr. Robert Sorrenti graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1973. He completed his residency in Pediatrics and was Chief Medical Resident at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. He returned to Massachusetts to be the Chief of Pediatrics at the Worcester City Hospital. For about twelve years he was in private pediatric practice while participating in student and resident education. Following that he embarked on a career in healthcare management. For about 15 years prior to retirement in 2020, he served as the chief operating officer of a health plan. He currently remains active in his community and, in addition to his participation in the activities of the Medical Society, serves on the Worcester Public Library Board and the Music Worcester Board.

Robert W. Finberg, MD
WDMS 2022 President's Award
(Posthumously)

Dr. Finberg was a friend, colleague, mentor, Chair Emeritus, and distinguished Professor of Medicine. He was an accomplished clinician, infectious diseases researcher, mentor and valued leader of our Department of Medicine for 21 years. Dr. Finberg was an internationally renowned physician scientist, with over 300 publications and innumerable research awards and honors from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and other agencies. We all witnessed the significance of Dr. Finberg's research as he helped develop, test, and implement new therapies for our patients affected by SARS-CoV-2. He helped shape our response to the pandemic and was the principal investigator on multiple clinical studies related to therapeutics and vaccines for SARS-COV-2.

Appointed in 1999 as Chair of the Department of Medicine, Dr. Finberg skillfully directed the educational, clinical and research activities in the largest academic department while continuing to care compassionately for some of the sickest patients in the hospital. He dramatically expanded the faculty ranks over his two decades as Chair and created new divisions. He was known for mentoring his Chiefs and being a generous collaborator with other Chairs and system leaders across the UMass Medical School and UMass Memorial Health organizations. He established close ties with other academic institutions and clinical affiliates. He was a strong advocate for faculty and staff development, overseeing three residency programs and fellowship training programs in more than 16 specialty and subspecialty areas.

Dr. Finberg's impact on his colleagues and mentees, was profound and cannot be understated. He met with every internal medicine residency applicant for twenty years and he deeply cared about each of his over 400 faculty and staff. He was invested in mentorship and was proud of his contributions to the career development of his many students, residents and faculty, many of whom went on to illustrious careers and whose achievements have brought international recognition to our medical school and health system.

Dr. Finberg was known for his infectious laugh, dry wit and great sense of humor and of course his iconic hat. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues, peers, and family.