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KAISER PERMANENTE TEACHING AWARD FOR CLINICAL EDUCATION

James Peggs, M.D.

Professor of Family Medicine

Senior Associate Chair of Family Medicine



James Peggs' enthusiasm for teaching is infectious – and legendary.

With his ready smile and easy-going nature, Dr. Peggs creates a relaxed and comfortable learning environment for his students, showering them with personal attention and constant encouragement. For example, after giving his students opportunities to cement their learning through night reading assignments about a topic from the day's clinic, he follows up with private mini-presentations that give students a chance to display their growing knowledge – and confidence.

Even on the most chaotic of days, Dr. Peggs remains unhurried and approachable. His ability to seize the teachable moment and distill an enormous amount of data into a succinct, comprehensible lesson is often uncanny.

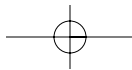
His approach to teaching medical students – both in the classroom and in the clinical setting – is to keep it short, simple and relevant. He constantly taps into those “teachable moments” that occur during a day, when a well-timed question, a demonstration of a physical finding or a literature search on the fly can rival a formal one-hour lecture.

Dr. Peggs often has said he feels that the best learning environment is one in which the student is challenged but not embarrassed, stimulated but not humiliated, nurtured but not coddled. He says, “Students are like sponges,” absorbing both good and bad attitudes and behaviors. He also feels that faculty must be excellent role models at all times. He says, “This includes being able to admit when we have a knowledge gap and be aggressive about resolving it, treating all patients with respect, and extending that same respect to our fellow physicians and the health care personnel with whom we work.”

Dr. Peggs himself teaches by example as he models compassionate care and dedication to patients. As one colleague says, “His holistic focus on the patient is refreshing; his constantly inquiring mind is inspiring.”

His involvement with students does not end at the office. He routinely makes himself available to the Family Medicine Interest Group and hosts an annual gathering at his home to discuss the field he so obviously loves.

A resident says, “Now, more than ever, I appreciate what a fantastic teacher Dr. Peggs is. . . . Dr. Peggs is the physician I hope to one day become.”



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Dr. Peggs has received many honors and awards for excellence in teaching and clinical practice, including the Silver Shovel Award from the Galens Medical Society in 1998, inclusion in *The Best Doctors in America* in 1999, the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians Educator of the Year Award in 1999, inclusion in *Best Doctors in Southeast Michigan* in 2001, the Dean's Award for Clinical Service in 2000 and two TAMS awards Token of Appreciation from Medical Students in 2002 and 2003.

Dr. Peggs was deputy medical examiner for Washtenaw County, Michigan, from 1979 until 2000, and has served, since 1989, as a reviewer for *American Family Physicians*.

Dr. Peggs says, "My time away from medicine is best enjoyed with family, particularly my one-year-old granddaughter who lights up our lives! My wife and I enjoy movies, travel, concerts and dining with friends. My love of sports ranges from active participation (golf, hockey, swimming, skiing) to passive enjoyment/cheering for favorite teams (Wolverines, Tigers, Red Wings). My goals for the future are to learn to play the guitar, to succeed at Sudoku and to be a good grandparent!"

"I cannot adequately express my love and appreciation for my wife's patience, intellect, creativity and unflagging support. My two wonderful children have brought me a greater sense of accomplishment and satisfaction than any stunning diagnosis I may have made or teaching award I may have won. I acknowledge several role models as family doctors, including my own father, who set the bar for me, and greatly appreciate the department leadership, especially my chair, Tom Schwenk, for creating the environment that has allowed me to combine my love for patient care with teaching young doctors-in-training. I am truly, as my friends jokingly call me, Dr. Lucky!"

