

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Nam Lam Named Recipient of the 2006 David Lawrence Community Service Award

The Board of Directors of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals announced that **Dr. Nam Ky Lam**, Pediatrics, Brea Medical Office, is the individual winner of the 2006 Annual David M. Lawrence, MD Community Service Award. This award is in recognition of Dr. Lam's efforts in Orange County to improve the access to and quality of dental care for vulnerable children throughout Orange County.

The David Lawrence Community Service Award recognizes individuals, groups and facilities that have demonstrated extraordinary efforts to improve the health of our communities. Individuals must demonstrate voluntary efforts; a significant history of sustained contributions and measurable impact on the health or well-being of a cultural or geographic community; and activities that address at least one of KP's Community Benefit Program's four areas of focus (large-scale community health initiatives, safety net partnerships, coverage for low-income families, developing and disseminating knowledge).

Focusing on community issues, Dr. Lam sits on the board of Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County. According to their Executive Director Sandra Bolton, "Dr. Lam has single-handedly moved the issue of oral health into the consciousness of primary care providers. He is light years ahead of where most pediatricians and primary care doctors are in understanding, intervening and educating about oral health."

Through Dr. Lam's efforts, Kaiser Permanente and community physicians have broadened their definition of primary care to include oral health. As a result, in 2006 the KP SCAL region adopted the clinical goal to improve the oral health of pediatric members region-wide. Dr. Lam's impact both internally and externally continues to grow.

"With KP's leadership, collaborative work and vision, we are spreading the knowledge of disease prevention, bringing us to the forefront in promoting good oral health in children," said Dr. Lam. "I hope to have the opportunity to continue this work in partnership with my KP colleagues and others in the community."

About Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County

Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to improving the oral health of children in Orange County through collaborations directed at prevention, education, treatment, and advocacy. In 2005, the Children & Families Commission of Orange County provided the necessary funding for Healthy Smiles to open a dental clinic and a hands-on education center. Located at the Children's Health & Dental Center in Garden Grove, California, the Smile Center and Tooth Fairy Learning Center provide valuable programs and services that serve the children in Orange County. Through their family outreach and healthcare provider education programs, Healthy Smiles also collaborates to eliminate disparities in access to oral health prevention and treatment among Orange County's children.

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