

COPIC Medical Foundation: 2014 WILLIAMSON AWARD RECOGNIZES DR. GARY VANDERARK

Chances are, if you've been in the Denver health care community for very long, you've met Dr. Gary VanderArk. His years of service to the community have been recognized time and time again, and the COPIC Medical Foundation is pleased to announce that he was selected as our 2014 Colorado Harold E. Williamson Award recipient.

Over 25 years ago, Dr. VanderArk recognized the need for services for Denver's uninsured and underserved populations, and thus, he established Doctors Care. Serving as an onsite primary care clinic for children and young adults, Doctors Care has provided more than 25,000 individuals with access to health care services that would have otherwise been unattainable. It also helps connect low-income, uninsured individuals to affordable treatment options through a network of providers that bill on a sliding-fee-scale. Dr. VanderArk has served as the President of the Board for the organization since its founding and continues to be a tireless champion and advocate for its mission.

Dr. VanderArk's ambition led him to create another organization to support the underserved. During his tenure as the President of the Colorado Medical Society, he helped launch the Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved (CCMU). CCMU is an education and advocacy organization dedicated to addressing systematic problems in our health care system. Dr. VanderArk has been President of the Board of Directors at CCMU since it was a project of the Colorado Medical Society in 1997 and



From left: Dr. Ted Clarke, COPIC Chairman and CEO, and Dr. Gary VanderArk, 2014 Colorado Harold E. Williamson Award recipient.

through its independent incorporation as a stand-alone nonprofit in 2004.

Dr. VanderArk continues to take an active role in both organizations, and also lends his time to the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and the University of Colorado Center for Bioethics and Humanities. In these positions, he educates future health care providers about health policy, ethics and other inter-professional development efforts. And when you add Dr. VanderArk's other various community affiliations, you can see that he is a physician who is unfamiliar with the word "retirement."

Because of this and so much more, we congratulate Dr. VanderArk on his tremendous achievements. The Harold E. Williamson Award stipulates a \$10,000 grant be given to a health-related nonprofit organization designated by Dr. VanderArk. He has chosen to split the grant between Doctors Care and CCMU.

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