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NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 9, 2006

Contact: Herbert Swick, executive director, Institute of Medicine and Humanities, 406-329-5661, swick@saintpatrick.org.

INSTITUTE DIRECTOR EARNS PRESTIGIOUS HONOR

MISSOULA —

Dr. Herbert Swick, Executive Director of Missoula's Institute of Medicine and Humanities, has joined some elite company.

Swick was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society as a national honoree on Oct. 28 during the annual meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges in Seattle. Fewer than 20 individuals have ever been so honored.

"I am very grateful and humbled to receive this prestigious national recognition," Swick said, "which reflects my own longstanding interests in the important role of the humanities in today's health care environment."

The institute he directs is a joint project of St. Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center and The University of Montana. Established in 1987, IMH promotes learning and study in the humanities and how they shed light on how we care for our sick.

The Gold Humanism Honor Society works to elevate the values of humanism and professionalism within the field of medicine. It is sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, which nurtures the tradition of the caring doctor by emphasizing the importance of the relationship between practitioner and patient.

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"The practice of medicine has benefitted enormously from rapid advances in scientific knowledge and technology, but these advances must always be balanced by a caring, compassionate approach to patients and their families," Swick said. "Being elected to the Gold Humanism Honor Society is a tribute not only to me personally, but also the institute, the University and the hospital."

A letter from the Gold Foundation reads, "Your work at the interface of medicine and humanities is most impressive, with (IMH) striving to better understand the dimensions of healing in an environment saturated with powerful diagnostic tools, sophisticated surgical techniques and newly discovered drugs and therapies.

"Additionally," the letter continues, "'Collegium Medicum,' your weekly broadcast on Montana Public Radio, melds aspects of medicine and humanities."

Besides directing IMH, Swick is an adjunct professor teaching in UM's Davidson Honors College. He also is a clinical associate professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

He earned his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1966, then completed training in pediatrics and child neurology. He spent 30 years in academic medicine, and before joining IMH he was Robert Petersdorf Scholar-in-Residence at the Association of American Medical Colleges, where his research focused on medial professionalism.

Swick has written more than 100 articles and abstracts in peer-reviewed professional journals. He also has given many presentations at national and international meetings that relate to his specialties of child neurology and the medical humanities.

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