



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake

Mayor,

Baltimore City

250 City Hall · Baltimore Maryland 21202 · 410-396-3835 · Fax: 410-576-9425

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CONTACT

Ryan O'Doherty

(410) 818-4269

ryan.odoherty@baltimorecity.gov

Physician Community Advocate Is Recipient of 2010 Dr. Sebastian Russo Award

BALTIMORE, MD. (September 1, 2010)—Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Baltimore City Health Commissioner Oxiris Barbot, M.D. announced that Barbara Cook, M.D., medical director of The Access Partnership (TAP) at Johns Hopkins Hospital and Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, is the winner of the 2010 Dr. Sebastian Russo Memorial Award.

The Dr. Sebastian Russo Award was created by the Baltimore City Health Department in 2007 to recognize healthcare providers who have made significant contributions to their fields by providing dedicated and compassionate service to low-income individuals and families. The award honors Dr. Sebastian Russo, a Baltimore City family physician known for his tireless and devoted service to his patients. Before his tragic death in 1980, Dr. Russo was embraced by his community, who recognized the value of a physician who made house calls, learned multiple languages to communicate more effectively with patients, and charged only when patients were able to pay.

Despite retiring from her role as president at Johns Hopkins Community Physicians, Dr. Cook now serves as the medical director for TAP, which provides free specialty care access to uninsured patients who live in the neighborhoods around both Johns Hopkins Hospital and Bayview Medical Center in coordination with the their dedicated primary care clinicians.

“Dr. Cook has dedicated her life to helping the less fortunate,” Mayor Rawlings-Blake said. “In the spirit of Dr. Russo, Dr. Cook established the first Hispanic Clinic at the East Baltimore Medical Center, providing a medical home to those without one and helping improve health outcomes in Baltimore City.”

“By taking steps to improve access to quality healthcare services, countless Baltimore families have benefited from Dr. Cook’s work at TAP,” added Dr. Barbot. “She is a truly worthy recipient of this prestigious award.”

A former Peace Corps volunteer in Panama, Dr. Cook is a board member for Outward Bound of Baltimore and an active choir member at Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church.

For more information about the Dr. Sebastian Russo Memorial Award and to read about past recipients, visit <http://www.baltimorehealth.org/russoaward>.

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