

Rome Family Practitioner Receives Amethyst Award

(June, 2004)

Richard P. Kaskiw, M.D., a Rome family practitioner, received the Amethyst Award from the Mohawk Valley Council on Alcoholism/Addictions., Inc., for his contribution to the field of chemical dependency treatment and prevention.

Dr. Kaskiw was one of two award winners who were honored at the Council's annual board meeting in May. He was nominated on behalf of Rome Memorial Hospital and its Community Recovery Center (CRC) by President/Chief Executive Officer Darlene Burns, RN, and Becky Eisenhut, RN, a credentialed alcohol and substance abuse counselor at the CRC.

"Dr. Kaskiw is an important role model and clearly exceptional because of his willingness and ability to address addictive behavior and make appropriate referrals and/or treat as part of his primary care practice," said Paul Fuller Jr., M.D., CRC medical director.

In their nomination, Burns and Eisenhut noted Kaskiw's commitment to advance his knowledge in the field by becoming certified in addiction medicine. "He is making a significant impact in the community and is a valuable resource for Rome Memorial Hospital staff and as an advocate for patients," they said

Dr. Kasiw has provided educational programs for hospital and CRC staff on a variety of topics related to substance abuse. He was also instrumental in the development and implementation of alcohol withdrawal protocols to minimize the occurrence of life threatening complications associated with severe alcohol withdrawal symptoms. He is one of the few physicians in the Central New York area that is certified to prescribe Suboxone on an outpatient basis for opiate addiction.

"Staff members are appreciative of Dr. Kaskiw's dedication to the treatment of substance abuse clients and his responsiveness in collaborating care for patients," Eisenhut said. "He is truly an ambassador in the treatment of those with substance abuse problems as well as to family members of those affected by the disease of chemical dependency."

Certified by the American Board of Family Practice, Dr. Kaskiw has been a member of Rome Memorial Hospital's medical staff since 1991. He earned his medical degree from the University Autonoma de Guadalajara School of Medicine, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, in 1987, and completed his residency in family practice at St. Elizabeth Hospital in 1991.

He earned certification in addiction medicine from the American Society of Addiction Medicine in 1999. He is a member of the Rome Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees.