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AAAHC Announces New Board Officers and Directors
New Leadership strengthens commitment to 1095 Strong

(Skokie, Ill.) October 23, 2019 – The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) announced new officers and election results for three new directors to its Board of Directors for 2020. Qualified, committed volunteer Board leaders are essential to the organization’s *1095 Strong, quality everyday* philosophy focused on ensuring ambulatory facilities are complying with high quality standards every day of their three-year accreditation cycle. The Board guides the strategic integration of excellence and relevance into AAAHC programs and services, attributes fundamental to being *1095 Strong*. By driving the improvement and growth of the association, advocating for patient safety through accreditation, sharing innovative ideas that leverage practice experience, and providing strategic guidance on education development, the diversity of the AAAHC Board is key to the organization’s success.

The new 2020 officers bring extensive experience and expertise in patient-centric ambulatory care, and a strategic focus to their leadership roles.

- **Ira Cheifetz, DMD, Board Chair** brings more than 30 years of experience in the practice of oral and maxillofacial surgery to the Board. He received his DMD degree from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine and completed his residency at Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital. Dr. Cheifetz has contributed to the AAAHC governance for nine years and was instrumental in leading the design and transition to a new, more strategic AAAHC Board structure. He has conducted numerous surveys on behalf of AAAHC. Additionally, he served on the board of trustees of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) for eight years, serving as the president of the association in 2009-2010.
- **Timothy J. Peterson, MD, Chair-Elect** is a primary care physician with more than 30 years in private practice. Dr. Peterson is a graduate of University of Wisconsin Medical School and completed his residency in Family Medicine at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Peterson was the president of the Frederic Clinic in Wisconsin from 1977 to 1987. He served at Thomas-Davis Medical Centers from 1987-1998 in Tucson, AZ, where he held various roles, ultimately serving as President and CEO. Subsequently, he served as Medical Director for Pima Health System from 1999 to 2006, was Vice President of Medical Affairs for Bridgeway Health Solutions from 2006-2007 and served as Chief Medical Officer of United Health Care Community Plan, overseeing the care for Arizona Long Term Care members. Dr. Peterson currently serves as a Quality Improvement consultant to the State of Arizona.
- **Arnaldo Valedon, MD, Immediate Past Board Chair** received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania and continued his training in anesthesiology and critical

care medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, with sub-specialty training in pediatric anesthesia at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Since finishing his training, Dr. Valedon has provided outpatient anesthesia services almost exclusively. Currently, he is the Medical Director and Director of Anesthesia Services at the Wellspan Health and Surgery Center in Pennsylvania and the president and CEO of Knightstone Consulting Group. He is an active AAAHC surveyor and the current Immediate-Past President of the Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia (SAMBA).

- **David Shapiro, MD, Secretary/Treasurer** is an anesthesiologist with extensive experience serving as a department chair, medical director, and board member for several ambulatory surgery centers. In addition, he has served as the national medical director on behalf of ASC management corporations, prior to establishing his consulting practice. Dr. Shapiro presently serves on the Boards of the Florida Society of Ambulatory Surgery Centers (FSASC) and the Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI) and is a Past President of the Ambulatory Surgery Center Association (ASCA). He is also a Board member of the Ambulatory Surgery Center Quality Collaboration (ASC QC).

“Our experience and dedication to patient safety will help AAAHC better serve ambulatory centers seeking to improve the quality of care they provide,” said Cheifetz. “Our goal is to accelerate the organization’s efforts to develop peer-reviewed, evidence-based standards that move the needle on health care quality and best practice.”

The three elected Directors present a diverse scope of knowledge, enabling AAAHC to focus on engagement and growth opportunities across a wide array of medical specialties.

- **W. Patrick Davey, MD, MBA, FACP** has practiced medical, surgical, and cosmetic dermatology for more than 30 years. He has leveraged his MBA training in several positions including partner, managing partner, and employee. He currently is working in part-time and locums’ positions. Dr. Davey has been an active AAAHC surveyor for more than 20 years and engaged in AAAHC governance since 2003 including serving as chair in 2014-2015.
- **Robin J. Elwood, MD** has practiced anesthesiology at the University of Oklahoma for more than 25 years and is currently serving as the interim department chair. He has a strong interest in ambulatory anesthesia. In addition to actively serving as a surveyor for AAAHC, for the past three years, he has chaired the Accreditation Committee.
- **David N. Gans, MSHA, FACMPE** is a national authority on practice operations for the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA). He has authored more than 125 journal articles, co-authored three books on practice management, and was the principle investigator on numerous federal and foundation grants. Most recently, Mr. Gans served on the AAAHC Standards and Survey Procedures Committee and the Institute Quality Advisory Committee.

“Our elected board members bring a diverse set of talent, expertise, and experience to our organization’s governance,” said Noel Adachi, president and CEO of AAAHC. “We value their commitment to improving patient care by strengthening AAAHC and fostering the *1095 Strong, quality every day* philosophy.”

About AAAHC

Founded in 1979, AAAHC is the leader in ambulatory health care accreditation, with more than 6,100 organizations accredited. We accredit a wide range of outpatient settings, including ambulatory surgery centers, office-based surgery facilities, endoscopy centers, student health

centers, medical and dental group practices, community health centers, employer-based health clinics, retail clinics, and Indian/Tribal health centers, among others.

AAAHC advocates for the provision of high-quality health care through the development and adoption of nationally recognized standards. We provide a valuable survey experience founded on a peer-based, educational approach to on-site review. The AAAHC Certificate of Accreditation demonstrates an organization's commitment to providing safe, high-quality services to its patients—every day of the 1,095-day accreditation cycle. It is recognized by third-party payers, medical professional associations, liability insurance companies, state and federal agencies, and the public. For more information on AAAHC, please visit www.aaahc.org.

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