



Department of Health  
Agency of Human Services



## Pediatrician Joseph Hagan, MD Named as Vermont's 2014 Childhood Immunization Champion



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BURLINGTON – Joseph Hagan, MD, of Hagan, Rinehart and Connolly Pediatricians – Burlington, has been recognized as Vermont's 2014 Childhood Immunization Champion by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Each year, during National Infant Immunization Week (April 28 – May 4, 2014) the CDC Foundation and CDC honor health professionals around the country who go above and beyond to promote immunization among children in their communities.

Dr. Hagan doesn't just believe in the value of immunizations – he takes the time needed to promote vaccines in meaningful ways and, as a result, is known as an authority on immunizations in Vermont. Ann Giombetti, a nurse who worked with Dr. Hagan and nominated him for this award said: "I found that not only did Dr. Hagan demonstrate the highest standards of immunization practices, but his commitment and enthusiasm also transferred to his staff and inspired everybody in the office to follow his lead."

Dr. Hagan frequently demonstrates his dedication to vaccine education. When the Vermont Department of Health was developing a state-wide campaign called "It's Ok to Ask" ([OktoAskvt.org](http://OktoAskvt.org)) to educate vaccine-hesitant parents about the risks and benefits of vaccines, Dr. Hagan volunteered to appear in promotional videos and answer questions from parents who write to the It's Ok to Ask website. He and his partners at Hagan, Rinehart and Connolly have answered many questions from Vermont parents, thus creating a valuable online resource.

He is also committed to providing the highest quality evidence-based care for children in Vermont. As one of the editors of Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children and Adolescents, which is published by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Hagan is at the forefront of guiding policy related to best practices, health insurance and health care reform efforts.

"Dr. Hagan is an inspiration to all who care about children's health in Vermont," Giombetti said, "and we are pleased and honored to congratulate him on this well-deserved award."

To read his profile on the CDC's website, and to learn more about CDC's Childhood Immunization Champion Award program, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/champions>.

For more information on childhood immunizations, and for health news, alerts and information - visit [healthvermont.gov](http://healthvermont.gov).  
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