

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 22, 2017

CONTACT: Cynthia McReynolds, MCAAP

(781.895.9850, cmcreynolds@mcaap.org)

H. Cody Meissner, MD, FAAP, is Named Massachusetts Recipient of the 2017 CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award

Waltham, Massachusetts – April 22, 2017 – H. Cody Meissner, MD, FAAP, Chief, Pediatric Infectious Disease Division, Tufts Medical Center, and Professor of Pediatrics at Tufts University School of Medicine, has been named the Massachusetts recipient of the 2017 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) *Childhood Immunization Champion Award*. Established in 2012 by the CDC, the *Childhood Immunization Champion Award* recognizes individuals who make a difference in the lives of infants and children through their work in immunization. Dr. Meissner was nominated for this award by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH).

The selection of Dr. Meissner was praised by his colleagues. DeWayne Pursley, MD, MPH, FAAP, President of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MCAAP) said, “Dr. Meissner’s work has had not only local, regional, and national, but also international implications. It is also extraordinary for a pediatrician to have substantive clinical and academic contributions that are so broadly ranging. Dr. Meissner’s work in both realms has had a huge impact on all children, from newborns to adolescents.”

Susan Lett, MD, MPH, Medical Director of the MDPH Immunization Program, noted that “the depth and breadth of his contributions to immunizations is unparalleled. The children and providers of Massachusetts are fortunate to be beneficiaries of the knowledge, wisdom, and passion that Dr. Meissner brings to his work.”

Dr. Meissner has been a practicing pediatrician, teacher, mentor and passionate advocate for child health in Massachusetts for more than thirty-five years. He studied at the University of Vermont and received his MD from Tufts University School of Medicine. He completed his residency at Boston Floating Hospital and fellowships at Children’s Hospital-Beth Israel-Dana Farber Cancer Center, and Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Meissner has served on local and national committees which have informed Massachusetts public policy and immunization practice. He has served on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and currently serves on numerous ACIP Work Groups. He also is an Ex-Officio member of the Committee on Infectious Diseases (COID), American Academy of Pediatrics, and is a member of National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) as well as the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.

CDC and the CDC Foundation launched this annual award program to honor immunization champions across the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia during National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW). This year NIIW will be held April 22-29-2017.

###