



(left to right) Rocky Degadillo, LACMA CEO; Mark Ridley-Thomas and Dr. Troy Elander, MD



L.A. Healthcare Awards

DINNER HONORS AREA LEADERS IN MEDICINE

THE FIRST ANNUAL LA HEALTHCARE AWARDS fundraiser for the newly launched Physicians for Patients Foundation of Los Angeles County was a rousing success, said organizers.

The dinner, organized by LACMA, honored Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and raised monies to be used for loan repayments and scholarships to encourage newly graduated physicians to practice in underserved areas of the county.

For his tireless efforts, Ridley-Thomas was given the Healthcare Champion of the Year Award.

Ridley-Thomas is the first African-American male ever to serve on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and has a long distinguished history of public service.

As county supervisor, he developed and executed a plan to re-open the MLK Medical Center and secured funding for its expansion, he reformed the

Department of Children and Family Services and significantly increased funding for primary care health programs for uninsured residents as well as school based mental health services.

“The recently sustained Affordable Care Act will enable an estimated additional 500,000 LA County residents to qualify for medical insurance by 2014,” said Dr. Troy Elander.

“This immediate and significant expansion of newly eligible patients will strain the capacity of safety net clinics and add a burden to medical providers who care for underserved populations. Los Angeles County will be facing a shortage of physicians.”

He added that the proceeds from the dinner would support the Foundation’s Medical Student Scholarship Program to help boost the number of doctors on the front lines. ■