

2007 Award Recipient: Kamel H. Elzawahry, MD

Kamel H. Elzawahry, MD, of the Brain and Spine Center, L.L.C of Panama City, FL was the first recipient of the Kenneth M. Viste, JR., MD, Patient Advocate of the Year Award.

Elzawahry is a former President of the Florida Society of Neurology and has served as the President of the local American Heart Association Board, as well as being involved in several other local patient advocacy groups.



Elzawahry also established the Bay Cares Program, a local indigent care program administered by the Bays Medical Society. The charitable venture arranges care for low-income patients in Bay County, Florida. In the two years since its inception in 2005, the program has grown to provide over \$1.6 million worth of free medical care. Medical expenses are covered through local donations. Elzawahry continues to be the Chairman of the Bay Cares Program.

In 1999, he received the Florida Medical Association's Certificate of Merit for outstanding work for the betterment of his profession, the delivery of quality medical care in Northwest Florida, and leadership in medical education at the state and local levels. "I am humbled and honored to be chosen for this award. I would like to thank Dr. Michael Finkel for nominating me," said Elzawahry. "I am grateful to my parents for teaching me the art of giving. Professor Elliot Mancall for empowering me with the tools to help others, my family, and my wife, Joan, and my children for giving me the strength to continue my dream of caring for others."

"One of Dr. Elzawahry's greatest contributions to patient advocacy has been to offer access to neurology care for the indigent and Medicaid population in the Florida panhandle region," said Michael F. Finkel, MD, FAAN, who nominated Elzawahry for the award. "With no other providers for these patients in the surrounding counties, he and his partner devote their time, regardless of their patients' ability to pay. This is his greatest act as a patient advocate, and it is what distinguishes him as someone who acts with the same love and generosity as Ken Viste."