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For Immediate Release

Prominent Augusta Doctor Recognized For Outstanding Contribution to Surgery

ATLANTA – Augusta physician, William J. Welsh, M.D., was awarded the 2007 Hardman Cup at the Medical Association of Georgia's (MAG) 153rd House of Delegates on Oct. 13, 2007 in Savannah. The House of Delegates is the annual meeting of the policy-making body of the association.

This award was presented to Dr. Welsh who, “in the judgment of the Association has solved any outstanding problem in public health or made any discovery in surgery or medicine or such contribution to the science of medicine, including but not limited to excellence in the field of medical education.”

Dr. Welsh has had a distinguished career as a plastic surgeon since opening his practice, Augusta Plastic Surgery, in 1981. After graduating from the Medical College of Georgia, he stayed to complete an internship in General Surgery and a residency in Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Welsh completed his Plastic Surgery residency at Boston University and a Fellowship at the Abteilung fur Wiederhellstrung Chirurgie in Vienna, Austria. He also holds a Masters Degree in Medical Illustration.

Dr. Welsh has made significant contributions to medicine with his research and development of the Autologous Platlet Gel. Autologous Platlet Gel is utilized in both acute and chronic facial wounds and is delivered at a lower cost without the risk of blood bank error or the potential for homologous interactions of other preparations. In 2000, Dr. Welsh was awarded “Excellence in Cosmetic Surgery” by the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery for this study published in July 2000. In addition, his research was published in *Cosmetic Dermatology* the same year.

Dr. Welsh is a member of the clinical faculty at the Medical College of Georgia and frequently invites Residents to train in his offices. Most recently, he obtained funding for a mission trip to Honduras to treat cleft lip and palate patients.

Dr. Welsh also has been involved in numerous professional organizations throughout the length of his career including: the Medical Association of Georgia; Richmond County Medical Society; Southern Medical Association; the Georgia Society of Plastic Surgeons; the American

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Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery; the American Academy of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery; and the American Medical Association.

Dr. Welsh and his wife, Lynn, reside in Augusta. Dr. Welsh has six children and 11 grandchildren.

MAG recognizes Dr. Welsh's devotion to medicine and the betterment of health care as the 2007 recipient of the Hardman Cup.

The award was named for Lamartine Hardman, M.D., the governor of Georgia from 1927 to 1931. Hardman was a successful physician, entrepreneur and farmer from Jackson County.

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