

Immunization Program Provider Spotlight

2024 Connecticut Immunization Champion

October 2024

Fred Santoro, MD, FAAP



In September, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) honored Dr. Fred Santoro as Connecticut's 2024 Immunization Champion for being innovative in his approach to getting children vaccinated and for putting accessibility at the forefront of practice, particularly for seasonal influenza vaccination. This national award is presented by the Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and honors individuals from state, local, and territorial jurisdictions that have gone above and beyond to promote or foster immunizations in their community and exemplify one or more of the following criteria: leadership, collaboration, innovation, and advocacy.

Dr. Santoro operates his own pediatric practice where he provides care and education on vaccinations to countless children in an area of Connecticut considered a provider desert. He also served as the Chairman of Pediatrics at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in New London, Connecticut for several years. In this role, he extended his influence beyond the children in his care to include children throughout Southeastern Connecticut. Dr. Santoro provided guidance and leadership for the hospital system, collaborating with various healthcare professionals to ensure high-quality care for patients. As a solo practitioner, Dr. Santoro is recognized for his advocacy of childhood vaccination, being among the first providers in Southeastern Connecticut to establish a vaccine policy for his practice and implement the CDC best-practice strategies for improving vaccination rates. Dr. Santoro was recently featured on Ledge Light Health District's "Health Watch" series advocating about immunizations. View the episode [here](#).

A small ceremony was held to honor Dr. Santoro, on Friday September 20th including Infectious Disease leadership and Immunization Program staff, Ledge Light Health District's Director and Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Coordinator and Dr. Santoro's family and staff members. We are proud to honor Dr. Santoro as our 2024 Immunization Champion! Thank you for all you do to championing vaccines!

To read Dr. Santoro's profile on the AIM website, and to learn more about AIM's Immunization Champion Award program, please visit [Champion Awards - Association of Immunization Managers](#).

