

# Doctor of the Year says health reform should focus on primary care

## Interview by Russell J. Moore from The Warwick Beacon

Dr. Martin Kerzer, a popular primary care doctor with an office located on Post Road, has been selected the physician of the year by the Rhode Island Primary Care Physician Corporation.

Kerzer, a pioneer in implementing electronic medical records, has a reputation for working relentlessly on behalf his patients, and advocating real solutions to bring care to the uninsured.

"Dr. Kerzer spends more time looking at the quality of what he's doing than anyone else I know," said Dr. Michael Fine, a colleague of Kerzer's whom he's known for more than 20 years.

Fine said Kerzer thinks nothing of spending hours on trying to come up with better, more efficient systems and methods of monitoring his diabetic patients. For Kerzer, Fine said, it's all about improving care.

Fine also said he's impressed by Kerzer's knack for reaching out to ethnic communities and ability to relate to people from different cultures-an important, but not always an easy task for doctors. In particular, Kerzer has reached out to Rhode Island's Hmong population and provided them with medical care.

"He's always been willing and able to take care of ethnic communities," said Fine. "I've learned a lot from Dr. Kerzer. One man can do a lot of good by just paying close attention to the needs of their patients."

Even today, few doctors have access to medical records. But Kerzer began implementing them at his office several years ago.