

## Barry Straube, MD Honored with 2011 Zawiski Award

*Recognized as a Valuable, Knowledgeable Advocate for the ESRD Industry  
During his Leadership at CMS*

On Thursday, October 6, during the NRAA Annual Conference in New Orleans, the NRAA presented The 2011 Mark Zawiski Award to Dr. Barry Straube. The award was presented by NRAA President Diane Wish, herself a winner of the Zawiski Award in 2002. Dr. Straube, a special guest at the NRAA Conference, received a standing ovation from the audience.



Dr. Straube, who up until the first of this year served as the Chief Medical Officer for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), as well as the Director of the CMS Office of Clinical Standards & Quality (OCSQ), was recognized for serving as a valuable advocate for the ESRD industry

During his time at CMS, Dr. Straube was the most senior clinical advisor to the CMS Administrator and CMS leadership. His office led: Medicare coverage decision-making; quality standards oversight for U.S. healthcare facilities; quality measurement and health assessment tools; information technology systems for clinical quality data; quality improvement/innovation plus value-based purchasing initiatives; and many other activities in the Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP programs, not the least of which included implementation of the Affordable Care Act of 2010. Due to the fact that he is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Nephrology, he had a special understanding of ESRD issues.

In her presentation, Diane Wish noted:

*“Barry provided an important role as the ESRD industry went through tremendous changes over the last seven years. Because of his education and background the voice of NRAA was valued. We especially believe that Barry valued the perspectives and opinions of the SDOs which is the mainstay of NRAA membership. Without Barry’s interest and willingness to help, the NRAA HIE project would not have gotten off the ground. Because of Barry we were given a unique opportunity which will benefit the non LDO providers significantly.”*

Diane went on to say that the award also recognized Dr. Straube’s personal demeanor, noting that “He was always very accessible, transparent, friendly and responsive.”

The NRAA Mark Zawiski Award is presented annually at the Annual Conference. The Award accepts nominations from NRAA members and is voted on by a panel consisting of past Zawiski Award recipients. The award is named after Mark Zawiski, a dialysis facility administrator in the Miami, Florida area, who worked his way through college as a dialysis tech and then advanced through the ranks of administration to become the Executive Director. Mark was the President of the Florida Renal Administrators Association for many years and served as Southeastern Regional Director and Treasurer of the National Renal Administrators Association. Upon Mark’s death at a young age, NRAA created the Award to honor him and to recognize other outstanding leaders, mentors and volunteers who are all part of the ESRD community.