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American Thoracic Society & Thoracic Society Chapter 2012 OUTSTANDING CLINICIAN AWARDS

Application Deadline: Tuesday, January 3, 2012

How to Apply

I. PURPOSE

Members of the American Thoracic Society (ATS) and its Thoracic Society Chapters (TSCs) work diligently and compassionately every day to improve the lives of patients with respiratory diseases, critical illnesses and sleep-related breathing disorders. One way they honor their peers who demonstrate excellence in the clinical care of patients is through the annual Outstanding Clinician Award (OCA).

The OCA recognizes clinicians who are dedicated to direct patient care on both the local and national levels. While each TSC may choose its own recipient, each year only one national award recipient is selected. [*TSC's are not required to participate in the OCA program.*]

Past recipients of the national award include:

2011 Michelle Sue Harkins, MD	New Mexico Thoracic Society
2010 Richard A. Helmers, MD.....	Arizona Thoracic Society
2009 Walter Donat, MD.....	Rhode Island Thoracic Society
2008 Jeffrey S. Wagener, MD	Colorado Thoracic Society
2007 Louis S. Libby, MD	Oregon Thoracic Society
2006 Christine S. Fukui, MD	Hawaii Thoracic Society
2005 Eloise M. Harman, MD	Florida Thoracic Society
2004 Anthony M. Marinelli, MD	Chicago Thoracic Society
2003 Paul A. Selecky, MD.....	California Thoracic Society

II. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

REQUIREMENTS – A candidate should:

1. Spend 75% or more of his/her professional time providing direct care to patients;
2. Be a member of both the TSC nominating him/her and of the ATS; and
3. Be recognized by his/her peers in the TSC as an outstanding clinician, as demonstrated by vote of the TSC membership or Executive Committee.

Additional consideration will be given, in order of priority, to candidates who have made recognized contributions to their TSC and/or to the ATS.

RESTRICTIONS – A candidate may not be:

1. A current member of the ATS Council of Chapter Representatives (CCR); or
2. The recipient of another ATS award for the current year. By the time of consideration for this award, recipients of other ATS awards will have been selected.

III. SELECTION PROCESS

Selection is conducted on two levels, locally and nationally:

1. **Local TSC Level** – By its very nature, patient care is local; it is provided in private practice offices, community clinics, hospitals, universities and other medical centers. Therefore, outstanding clinicians must first be recognized within the locality of their respective Thoracic Society Chapter. **TSCs that wish to participate will complete the following steps:**
 - a. Select one OCA recipient to be approved by the full chapter membership in accordance with the criteria described in section II above. In the absence of the opportunity for a vote (electronic, in-person or by paper ballot) of the full membership, the TSC's Executive

2012 Outstanding Clinician Award – Application Instructions cont'd

- Committee may make the selection. Upon selection, the recipient will be designated as the TSC's OCA recipient for 2012.
- b. **Submit** the TSC OCA recipient's name to the ATS as a candidate for the national ATS Award with **the following materials**:
 - i. The completed **TSC Nomination Form**, which will contain a comprehensive description of the candidate's patient care skills, expertise and the positive impact made on patients. This may best be prepared by a colleague of the outstanding clinician or other individual thoroughly familiar with the candidate's peerless care of patients with respiratory disease. The statement will be well-supported if it includes anecdotes from patients or their loved ones, as well as from colleagues who have witnessed the candidate at work or learned from him/her how to provide thorough and compassionate patient care.
 - ii. **Up to three letters of support** from grateful patients and their loved ones; community/state/regional thought leaders and decision makers in healthcare and patient care; and fellow chapter members. Letters must clearly describe how the nominee has demonstrated excellence as a direct provider of patient care to individuals with respiratory diseases, critical illnesses or sleep-related breathing disorders.
 - iii. The candidate's **curriculum vitae** (CV).
 - iv. A **600 dpi color photograph** in jpeg file format of the nominee. This should be a head and shoulders photograph.
 - c. TSC's that wish to participate will submit a completed nomination packet by e-mail only to chapters@thoracic.org by **Tuesday, January 3, 2012**. Supporting materials should be submitted as Microsoft Word or PDF files. The photograph must be in JPEG file format.
 - d. Honor its OCA recipient at local meetings or events, and via communication vehicles such as listservs, e-mail announcements, websites and newsletters.
- 2. National ATS Level** –The ATS Council of Chapter Representatives (CCR) will conduct the next level of the OCA selection process as follows:
- a. TSC nomination packets (*detailed in 1b above*) will undergo review by the ATS Outstanding Clinician Award Review Committee.
 - b. The committee will develop a slate of the top three qualifiers, based on the eligibility criteria described in Section II above.
 - c. The CCR chair will present the slate of the top three qualifiers for a vote.
 - d. The chapter representative, administrator or informed substitute of a TSC with a nominee on the slate may provide additional written information making the case for why that TSC's candidate best meets the criteria and should be the national 2012 ATS OCA recipient.
 - e. Each TSC is eligible to cast one vote by a chapter representative, administrator or informed substitute. A TSC with no representation at the meeting will, by default, have one vote credited to its nominee, if that nominee is on the slate. If a TSC has no nominee on the slate and does not have a representative present, it will forfeit its vote.
 - f. Ballots will be counted to determine the 2012 ATS OCA recipient.
 - g. All TSC OCA recipients and the national ATS Outstanding Clinician Award recipient will be honored by the ATS on posters at the Clinicians Center at the subsequent International Conference. The posters will feature pictures and biographies of the TSC OCA recipients, and will reference the outstanding patient care they have been honored for providing.
 - h. The ATS will present the 2012 ATS OCA recipient with a plaque at the annual Awards Ceremony at the 2012 International Conference. The ATS will also recognize the honoree in its monthly newsletter *ATS News* and on its web site.

Questions about the ATS & TSC Outstanding Clinician Award program may be directed to:

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