AWARDS POLICY

GOLD MEDAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY

The Gold Medal is the American Academy of Dermatology’s highest award. It is presented on a highly selective basis in recognition of outstanding and exceptional service to the specialty of dermatology in the science, teaching and practice of cutaneous medicine and surgery. It should also be considered for those who have made an outstanding and exceptional contribution to the administrative aspects of this specialty, nationally or internationally.

The Gold Medal of the American Academy of Dermatology should be awarded only to dermatologists who are active, senior, or former members of the American Academy of Dermatology.

The statement of explanation accompanying each individual award should be appropriate to the particular attributes and contributions of the person being honored. No two awardees will fit the same mold.

NOTE: Gold Medal awardees are selected by the President and automatically become Honorary Members of the Academy.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Article III, Section 2(h); Article IV, Section 1(c)

Meritorious Achievement. Leadership and service that affirms an uncommon and sustained dedication to dermatology in the goals of the Academy would be the primary consideration. In most cases, the honorary membership would be bestowed for a "lifetime" of dedication and distinguished service.

Criteria: Age 65 and over; or currently a Life member, or not otherwise eligible for AAD membership.

Number of Recipients Per Year. The number of honorary membership recipients granted in a given year is limited to a maximum of five (5), not including the Gold Medal recipient.

Academy Office. Having previously held prominent office in the Academy should not be a determining factor as the honorary membership should be bestowed for individuals on behalf of all of dermatology and not necessarily the Academy.

Soliciting Nominations. The general membership should be informed at least annually through Academy publications and/or announcements that nominations for honorary membership may be submitted by any member of the Academy to the Secretary/Treasurer on an official nomination form at least six months before the Summer Board of Directors meeting provided that the Board of Directors may waive or alter this notice requirement in exceptional circumstances. The person(s) nominating a potential honoree should submit a brief biography, including accomplishments and reasons for granting honorary membership.

Review of Nominations. The President will review honorary membership nominations that have been provided by the Secretary-Treasurer.
Role of Board of Directors. The decision for granting honorary membership rests with the Board of Directors, and they must have the freedom to respond on the basis of each individual candidate.

Recognition.
All current and past recipients will not be obligated to pay any membership dues, each receive a complimentary subscription to the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* and will be entitled to the Life member registration rate for all Academy meetings.

**PRESIDENTIAL CITATION AWARD**
The Academy President has the privilege and opportunity to acknowledge and recognize individuals, either dermatologists or non-dermatologist who have made a significant contribution to both the Academy and the specialty of dermatology. A statement of explanation accompanying each individual award should be specific to the particular attributes and contributions of the person being honored.

The Presidential Citations awardees are selected by the President.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**
This award is reserved for persons who have furthered the goals of the Academy through efforts that are beyond the ordinary. In addition, something of distinct and unusual value should have accrued to the Academy because of the efforts of the awardee. The contribution of the individual should not be self-serving. The wording of the award should be individualized to the specific recipient and what he/she has contributed to the Academy. The nominating process should be initiated by the President of the Academy and the award should be approved by the members of the Academy Board of Directors. Because of these highly selective criteria, the award should not be considered to be an annual event, although it could be awarded in consecutive years. The amount of the award and its funding source should be under the direction of the Board of Directors of the Academy.

The Board of Directors voted that this award be presented to non-dermatologists only.

**Recipients of the Distinguished Service Award:**
1981  Bradford W. Claxton, CAE,  
1988  Murray P. Gruber  
1990  Lawrence E. Rosenthal, PhD  
1991  Cheryl K. Nordstedt  
1996  John T. Grupenhoff, PhD  
2001  Stephen P. Clark  
2002  Thomas G. Pearson, EdD  
2003  Thomas H. Stluka,  
2004  Rob Larson  
2007  Charles Stiefel  
2011  Senator Ted W. Lieu  
2015  Randy Beranek

**ACADEMY RISING STAR IN EDUCATION AWARD**

**I. Award**
The Academy Rising Star in Excellence Award will be presented to a medical student, dermatology resident or fellow member in recognition of exceptional contributions to the Academy’s continuing professional development program. Since the Award is only to be made from nominations of truly exceptional contributions to the Academy’s educational program, it will not necessarily be awarded every year.

**II. Criteria**
Medical student, dermatology resident or fellow nominees must meet one or more of the following criteria:
a. Active participation as a planner or faculty in an innovative and measurably impactful Academy educational activity.

b. Contributions to the Academy’s educational program can be linked to three or more of the American Board of Medical Specialty’s Core Competencies (Medical Knowledge, Patient Care, Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Systems-based Practice, Professionalism, Practice-based Learning and Improvement).

c. Contributions to the Academy’s educational program include three or more activities in a 12-month period that address health care disparities and/or cultural competency.

d. Contributions to the Academy’s educational program include three or more activities in a 12-month period that address the effective utilization of resources in delivering high quality dermatologic care.

e. Contributions to the Academy’s educational program include three or more activities in a 12-month period that address patient safety.

III. Process for Nominations

a. Requests for nominations shall be solicited annually in Fall from chairs of Ad Hoc Task Forces, Work Groups, Task Forces, and Committees under the Council on Education and Maintenance of Certification, as well as members of the Council on Education and Maintenance of Certification and Academy Board of Directors.

b. Nominations must be submitted in writing to the Chair of the Council on Education and Maintenance of Certification in the Fall to ensure there is time to submit the potential recipient at the Fall Board meeting.

IV. Selection Process

The recipient shall be selected via ballot by a Council on Education and Maintenance of Certification Work Group consisting of:

- Academy Past President
- Current Council on Education and Maintenance of Certification Chair
- Two at-large members named by the Council on Education and Maintenance of Certification Chair
- One residency program director

a. The name of the individual selected by the Work Group to receive the Academy Rising Star in Education Award shall be held in strict confidence until the recommendation is approved by the Academy Board of Directors.

b. The Council on Education and Maintenance of Certification shall prepare a concise summary of the recipient’s accomplishments and significant contributions to the Academy’s educational mission.

V. Recognition

The recipient shall receive a commemorative plaque and recognition at the time of the Annual Meeting and in Dermatology World.

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

I. Award

This award recognizes an AADA member who over the course of the calendar year went above and beyond in advocating on behalf of the specialty with elected officials in the federal, state, and local levels.
II. Criteria
Based on the above mission statement the following will be key considerations, though not the only such, for selecting the winner:
  a. Participation in AADA calls to grassroots action through the Dermatology Advocacy Network (DAN) website
  b. Active participation in the AADA grassroots network as a state advocacy leader and/or conduit
  c. Personal efforts to become/further develop their status as a key contact
     i. Personal outreach to elected officials
     ii. In-District meetings with US Congressional offices
     iii. Meetings with State Legislators
     iv. Holding site-visits
     v. Testify as part of a Federal/State Legislative Hearing
     vi. Direct work with elected officials to craft public policy
  d. Worked with AADA or State/Local Society on State Legislative Policy (i.e.: creation of model legislation or position statements)
  e. Worked with AADA federal policy team on creation of dermatology related public health policy
  f. Participation in AADA advocacy events such as the Leadership Institute, Legislative Conference, and Policy Retreat
  g. Miscellaneous advocacy activities

III. Nominations
A call for nominations will be announced at the fall AADA Legislative Conference; nomination forms will be available at the event with accompanying literature on the selection process. Immediately following the Conference an email will be sent to members of the following memberships groups asking for nominations:

  a. AADA Grassroots Network’s State Advocacy Leaders/Conduits
  b. Council on Government Affairs, Health Policy, and Practice
  c. Congressional and State Policy Committees
  d. Academy Advisory Board
  e. Dermatology Society Officers, including state society executives

Nominations will be due by the third Monday in December.

IV. Selection Process
Upon receiving the nominations, the Grassroots Advocacy Workgroup (GAW) Chair, in consultation with staff, will select the top ten candidates based on the above criteria and submit them for consideration to the GAW. This submission will include:
  a. All nomination forms
  b. A spreadsheet that shows how many of the above criteria the candidates meet
  c. Any anecdotal comments from staff or other members describing the advocacy efforts of the candidates

GAW members will have two weeks to review the selection materials and submit to staff a weighted top five ranking of candidates. Based on this ranking the GAW will then make a selection from the top 3 candidates. If there is a tie, the Chair of the council on Government Affairs, Health Policy and Practice will provide the tie-breaking vote.

V. Recognition
The Award will be given at the recognition reception and re-presented as part of the DAN/SkinPAC reception where the GAW Chairperson will give a short description of the winner’s advocacy efforts.
EXCELLENCE IN PATIENT CARE AWARD

I. Award

The mission of the Academy Quality Improvement (QI) for clinical practice award is to improve quality dermatology care in the United States and to specifically facilitate QI engagement in dermatology practice. Through the development of external funding sources, the program aims to encourage the adoption of meaningful QI practices by dermatologists for the benefit of patients. In conjunction with the Academy nationwide clinical platforms which will identify areas for improvement and resources for understanding QI, the program provides financial support to dermatologists who would not otherwise be able to implement innovative QI. By reaching out into the community and better equipping Academy members, dermatology residents, physician partners, and patients with continual and relevant quality improvement strategies and resources, the program will continue to improve the health of those individuals with skin diseases and disorders.

II. Criteria

To better support the Academy members’ needs for QI resources, to assist members who wish to implement QI in their practice, and to expand the culture of QI in both practice and publication, the Academy is committed to building a comprehensive QI resource center for clinical practice. Funding from the QI resource center is available for qualified projects proposed by either active Academy members or resident members as follows:

1) Any active United States-based member who wishes to embark on innovative QI may submit an online application for funding of the project on the QI resource center web page, which will include a rolling submission deadline. The applicant must give permission for the resulting project and/or idea to be shared in the Dermatology QI Idea database and potentially become a template project for other dermatologists. The goal would be to provide resources to an eligible Academy member who would not otherwise be able to implement an innovative QI project in his/her practice, to improve patient care within such practice, and to bring QI ideas to the dermatology community generally.

2) An active United States-based resident member who has completed or been involved in a successful QI project or program may submit the project findings to the Academy for a “Young Dermatologists Quality Improvement Innovation Award.” The award would provide a stipend for travel and presentation of the project. Resident members must submit their award applications through an online submission process hosted on the QI resource center page subject to an annual submission deadline. Awardees’ presentations will be shared with residency programs and included in the Dermatology QI database. The goal would be to provide an incentive for residents to pursue meaningful QI projects that will engage them in the culture of QI and lead to increased publications of QI work.

III. Selection Process

Once the application process has closed, staff will collate submissions for Patient Safety & Quality Committee (PSQC) review and rating. An online scoring form will be used to rank and objectively determine most deserving applications.

- All candidates will receive a score of 0-5 in each of the following categories:
  - Strength of project design and knowledge of problem area
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- Adequate plan and strategy
- Perceived impact on quality or safety
- Perceived novel or innovative approaches, tools, or technologies
- Overall assessment

- Resident and fellow physician candidates will be scored separately and receive a score of 0-5 in the following category in addition to the other categories listed above:
  - Strength of letter of support

- Total points (maximum of 25 or 30 for resident and fellow physician members) and standard error of measurement (SEM) (across scoring Patient Safety & Quality Committee (PSQC) members) will be calculated for each candidate.

IV. Recognition
The recipient will be given a monetary award to cover budget expenses related to the quality improvement project. The recipient will be required to sign an award agreement setting forth the recipient’s obligations and commitments in exchange for receiving the award.

MASTER DERMATOLOGIST AWARD

I. Award
This Award recognizes an Academy member who throughout the span of his or her career has made significant contributions to the specialty of dermatology as well as to the leadership and/or educational programs of the American Academy of Dermatology.

II. Criteria
a. The recipient should possess a national or international presence and a well-recognized expertise.
b. The recipient should be a longstanding member of the American Academy of Dermatology.

III. Nominations
a. Requests for nominations shall be solicited annually from the Academy membership at large via Dermatology World as well as from the members of the Board of Directors and the Academy’s Member Recognition Committee.
b. Nominations must be submitted in writing to the Chair of the Member Recognition Committee, c/o the Academy office at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting.
c. Additional nominations may be made during the annual session by members of the Member Recognition Committee.
d. No sitting member of the Member Recognition Committee shall be eligible for nomination.
e. Nominees shall be considered for selection in the year they are nominated and the following year. There is no limit on the number of times an individual may be nominated for the Award; however, they may receive the Award only one time.

IV. Selection Process
a. The recipient shall be selected at the Member Recognition Committee’s annual session and shall be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at its first meeting following the Annual Meeting.
b. The name of the individual selected by the Member Recognition Committee to receive the Master Dermatologist Award shall be held in strict confidence until the recommendation is approved by the Board of Directors.
c. The Member Recognition Committee shall prepare a concise summary of the recipient’s accomplishments and significant contributions to the field of dermatology and to the Academy.
V. Recognition
   a. The recipient shall receive a commemorative plaque and recognition at the time of the Annual Meeting and in Dermatology World. The recipient’s photograph shall be placed in Academy Heritage Collection at the Academy headquarters.

MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE
I. Award
   The Members Making a Difference award is the highest honor that a member can receive in the Academy’s Volunteer Recognition Program.

   One award is given quarterly to an Academy member, and the winner is profiled in Aspire magazine. Award-winners are chosen based on the significance of the work they have done and the category of service. This award is based on cumulative volunteer service, and all nominees will remain on the selection list for up to three years.

II. Criteria
   Nominees should meet two of the eight following criteria:
   • Exceptional service to the underserved.
   • Exceptional service to the community.
   • Exceptional service to state/local/medical/subspecialty dermatology society.
   • Exceptional service to academic/physician education.
   • Exceptional service to the Academy.
   • Exceptional service to the international audience.
   • Significant commitment of time, energy and resources.
   • Significant benefit to others as a result of their volunteerism.
   • Volunteer work is outside the realm of paid positions.

III. Selection Process
   The Academy Member Recognition Committee reviews all completed nominations and selects (4) winners at the Annual Meeting and/or via email ballots throughout the year as needed. The recipients are notified several months before their announcement in Aspire.

IV. Recognition
   The dermatologists who received this award will be honored at the recognition reception at the following Academy’s Annual Meeting. The winners also will receive a plaque and be recognized in Aspire Magazine and on the Academy website.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE PIONEER AWARD
I. Award
   This award recognizes participants (individual physicians or physician groups) in the AAD’s performance measure testing efforts who successfully collect and transmit measure data to the Academy.

II. Criteria
   Nominees must be participants in the AAD Performance Measure Testing Program and meet all of the following criteria:
   a. Collect data for patients from the eligible population for the performance measures using the instructions provided by the Academy and its subcontractor;
   b. Identify patients through electronic health records, claims, or other systems;
   c. Create a date file with eligible patients and upload it through a secure web-based portal;
   d. Participate in periodic project calls with the Academy staff; and
e. Comply with the project instructions and schedules provided by the Academy and its subcontractors.

III. Recognition
The recipient shall receive a commemorative plaque and recognition at the Annual Meeting.

PHILANTHROPY AWARD
I. Award
The Philanthropy Award is established in support of the Academy’s strategic initiatives of specialty leadership positioning and financial sustainability and revenue diversification. The Philanthropy Award is meant to:

*The Philanthropy Award will acknowledge the generosity of individuals with a demonstrated commitment to the Academy and its programs and encourage donors to consider the Academy as one of their top priorities for philanthropic support.*

By designating the Philanthropy Award, the Academy will:
- Raise the visibility of the full scope of philanthropic giving opportunities available through the Academy
- Recognize the importance Academy programs and services have to patients, members, and communities, and how this impact can be deepened with the support of generous donors
- Promote philanthropy by honoring an individual who serves as an aspirational model to Academy donors and the specialty

Many organizations recognize philanthropists as a way to elevate the importance of philanthropy in their mission and encourage others to lead. This award will demonstrate to Academy members and others that we value individuals who are strong leaders and committed volunteers, and who also give generously to the Academy. Currently there is no other Academy award that honors generous supporters of the Academy’s philanthropic initiatives. This award will honor the recipient while promoting philanthropy on a broader scale within the Academy and celebrating member impact to its external partners.

II. Criteria
- The award will only be given when the Committee identifies an individual whose support of the Academy’s philanthropic efforts (through personal philanthropy, community leadership, volunteer work) merit this distinction
- The award will honor someone who is a role model for others as demonstrated by his/her commitment to philanthropy through giving of his/her time and resources as well as efforts to encourage others to support the Academy

III. Selection Process
- Development Committee members (in conjunction with, Major Gifts Work Group and executive staff) are asked to identify prospective recipients
- Names of potential candidates and brief bios (including rationale) are presented to Council on Community, Corporate and Philanthropic Relations during conference call
- Council on Community, Corporate and Philanthropic Relations reviews names of potential awardees and selects recipient
- Recipient name is presented to the Board of Directors for approval
- Recipient is notified and asked to be in attendance at Annual Meeting for presentation at the Academy’s Annual Recognition Reception
IV. Recognition

- Recipient will receive a specially commissioned award at the Academy’s Annual Recognition reception and a special mention at the President’s Gala (or President’s Dinner) during the Annual Meeting.
- A special ad will be included in the Annual Meeting’s onsite program book, as well as an article in the philanthropic print publication, website and/or Philanthrop-e highlighting the story of the recipient.
- News releases will be disseminated to appropriate media outlets, including their community publications.
- Efforts will also be made to encourage giving in honor of the award recipients and/or engage their colleagues, family, and friends in recognizing their achievements possibly through a project/activity named after that person for the year (e.g., one shade structure sign; one scholarship, etc.)

PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

I. Award
This Award will be presented to a medical professional or organization in recognition of the recipient’s exemplifying the highest standards of professionalism over a career or substantial period of time.

II. Criteria
Must meet one or more of the following criteria:
- a. Embody and demonstrate the highest values of the medical profession through leadership and service to the medical community.
- b. Through both actions and support of others, work to advance the ethical practice of the medicine.
- c. Directly and through the support of colleagues, encourage altruistic and compassionate service to those who might not otherwise have received appropriate care.
- d. By advancing the case for quality patient care even in the face of challenges and obstacles to implementation.

III. Selection Process
The President will select the nomination from an individual or organization whose contributions have demonstrated the highest commitment to professionalism and medical ethics. The nomination shall be approved by the Board of Directors. Since the Award is only to be made from nominations of exceptional contributions to the cause of professionalism, it will not necessarily be awarded every year.

IV. Recognition
The recipient shall receive a commemorative plaque and recognition at the time of the Annual Meeting and in an AAD/A publication.

THOMAS G. PEARSON AWARD

I. Award
The Thomas G. Pearson, EdD, Memorial Education Award recognizes a member of the Academy who has advanced the organization’s educational mission through significant contribution of time, development of educational programs, coordination of educational activities, and more. Established in 2002, the award also serves as a memorial to the late Dr. Thomas G. Pearson, who was the Academy’s director of education from 1987 to 2001.
II. Criteria
Members reviewed the award criteria and noted that the award recipient should have contributed to the Academy's educational mission in terms of significant donation of time, contribution to the development of educational programs and coordination of educational activities. The recipient should be a member of the American Academy of Dermatology.

III. Selection Process
The recipient shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

IV. Recognition
The recipient shall receive a commemorative plaque and recognition at the Annual Meeting and in Dermatology World.

WILLIAM D. JAMES, MD MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD
I. The Award
The William D. James, MD, Mentor of the Year Award recognizes an Academy member who has demonstrated throughout his/her career a long-standing commitment to mentoring students, trainees, and/or junior faculty.

II. Award Criteria
The Recipient:
- is a wise and trusted advisor;
- fosters intellectual growth and development;
- provides career and professional guidance;
- is a positive role model; and
- is accessible.

III. Eligibility Criteria
The Recipient:
- is a member of the AAD; and
- has sustained an outstanding record of mentoring over time.

IV. Nominations
a. Nominations shall be solicited annually from the Academy membership at large via email solicitation, the Leadership Development Steering Committee, and the Mentoring Work Group.
b. Nominations shall include letters of support that highlight the nominee’s mentoring efforts.

V. Selection Process
a. The recipient shall be selected by the Mentoring Work Group prior to the AAD Annual Meeting.

VI. Recognition
a. The recipient will be presented with a plaque commemorating this award at the Leadership and Mentoring Reception, which takes place at the AAD Annual Meeting.
b. The recipient will be recognized on the Mentoring section of the AAD website.

YOUNG INVESTIGATORS AWARD
I. Award
The Young Investigators Awards are in recognition of significant basic, translational, and/or clinical research contributions by dermatologists in training and young dermatologists. Each awardee receives an engraved commemorative plaque and a cash award. Up to two basic/translational research awards and one clinical research award will be offered each cycle.
II. Criteria

The criteria for judging applicants are:

- Originality of research concept
- Soundness of research design
- Quality/clarity of the narrative research description
- Perceived value of the research to dermatology
- Quality and strength of publications
- Overall assessment of applicant
  - Likelihood of becoming an established, independently-funded investigator in dermatology
  - Quality and strength of research achievements
  - Prior recognition of work (awards and funding)

Each criterion will be evaluated on a numerical, zero to five basis, with five being superior and 0 being well below average. The overall assessment score is double-weighted in the calculation of total score.

The total of the numerical rankings combined with the letters of recommendation and supplemental materials will be used by a sub-group of six physicians on the Awards Work Group to determine the winner(s).

If external collaborators or sources of external funding represent any perceived or actual conflict of interest with the Academy and its mission, the Academy reserves the right to exclude the applicant from consideration.

Eligibility criteria

- Applicant must hold DO, MD, or MD/PhD degrees
- Applicant must be a participant in or have completed a US or Canadian dermatology residency program accredited by Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or the Professional Corporation of Physicians of Quebec
- For Medical Doctor (MD) and Doctor of Osteopathic (DO) applicants, submitted research must be initiated after medical school
- For MD/PhD applicants, submitted research must be initiated after PhD thesis work
- Submitted research must be completed; proposals or research in progress are not eligible
- Submitted research must be completed by age 40 and within eight (8) years of completing a terminal degree. Applicants may be granted an extension of up to two (2) years for the completion of this research due to the 1.) birth, adoption, or rearing of a child or children, or 2.) personal/family medical issues.
- Submitted research must be submitted for publication, in press, or published

III. Application

Eligible candidates may apply directly through the online submission process.

Applicants should note the following:

- The applicant must personally complete all sections of the application except the letter of recommendation
- The applicant must clearly articulate the research problem, strategy of attack, results, conclusion, and statement of significance to the general dermatology community
- One additional letter of recommendation may be submitted as a supplemental attachment
- Additional material related to the submitted research may be submitted as a supplemental attachment(s)
- If applicable, a letter from the applicant attesting to the reason(s) for a time extension for submitted research must accompany the application
IV. Selection Process
The Awards Work Group includes one representative from the Council on Science and Research and two representatives from each of the following categories: the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*; the Association of Professors of Dermatology; the Society for Investigative Dermatology; Academy members-at-large; and previous awardees/residents.

V. Recognition
The recipient(s) shall receive a commemorative plaque and recognition at the time of the Annual Meeting and in *Dermatology World*. 