

## Previous Winners

1988	Tom Sheehy, MD, FACP
1989	Basil I. Hirschowitz, MD, FACP
1990	Henry M. Gewin, MD, FACP
1990	Stanley S. Kahn, MD, FACP
1991	Jack J. Kirschenfeld, MD, FACP
1991	John M. Packard, MD, FACP
1992	John F. Burnum, MD, FACP
1992	S. Richardson Hill Jr., MD, FACP
1993	Samuel Eichold II, MD, FACP
1993	William W. Winternitz, MD
1994	H. Hamilton Hutchinson, MD, FACP
1994	James A. Pittman Jr., MD, MACP
1995	Dick D. Briggs Jr., MD, FACP
1995	Irving A. Koffler, MD, FACP
1996	Alan M. Siegal, MD, FACP
1996	Robert H. Lokey, MD, FACP
1997	J. Claude Bennet, MD, MACP
1997	John McDuffie McGehee, MD, FACP
1998	Wilmer J. Coggins, MD, FACP
1998	Richard H. Esham, MD, FACP
1999	Charles G. Cobbs, MD, FACP
1999	Richard O. Russell Jr., MD, FACP
2000	John B. Bass Jr., MD, MACP
2000	Peter W. Morris, MD, FACP
2001	Max Michael III, MD, FACP
2001	Keehn W. Berry Jr., MD, FACP
2002	William A. Curry, MD, FACP
2002	Arthur L. Ennis, MD, FACP
2003	William E. Dismukes, MD, MACP
2003	Pink L. Folmar, MD, FACP
2004	Paul W. Burleson, MD, FACP
2004	Edwin A. Rutsky, MD, FACP
2005	Ben V. Branscomb, MD, FACP
2005	John M. McMahon, MD, FACP
2006	Roy F. Roddam, MD, FACP
2006	Frank D. Sutton Jr., MD, FACP
2007	James R. Bonner, MD, FACP
2007	Stephen Alvin Davis, MD, FACP
2008	Dennis G. Delgado, MD, FACP
2008	Billy Willard Boyd, MD, FACP
2009	Wickliffe J. Many Jr., MD, FACP
2009	Robert M. Centor, MD, FACP
2010	Maryella D. Sirmon, MD, FACP
2011	Gustavo Heudebert, MD, FACP
2012	William J. Koopman, MD, MACP
2013	Ross Vaughn, MD, FACP
2014	Anupam Agarwal, MD
2015	Lourdes C. Corman, MD, FACP, FACR
2016	Charles Seth Landefeld, MD, FACP
2017	Charles Michael Soppet, MD, FACP
2018	Bernard H. Eichold II, MD, DrPH, FACP
2019	Vera Bittner, MD, MSPH, FACP



# 2020 Laureate Award



## Alabama Chapter 2020 Laureate Award Jefferson Underwood III, MD, FACP



With great admiration and appreciation, the 2020 Laureate Award is presented to Jefferson Underwood III, MD, from Montgomery, Alabama. Dr. Underwood was born in 1955 to the late Jefferson Underwood II, MD, and his wife, Olean Underwood. His high school education was obtained from the St. Jude Educational Institute, where he graduated with

honors. Dr. Underwood received his bachelor's degree from Alabama State University in 1977, where he graduated summa cum laude, and his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville. He did his internship and residency in internal medicine at the District of Columbia General Hospital/Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He has practiced internal medicine in Montgomery since 1984 and has given of himself to his community and his profession during his entire career. He was awarded the Douglas L. Cannon Award by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA) in 1985 for his radio shows "Lifeline" and "For Your Health." He received the Alabama Young Democrats Achievement Award for Community Service in Health in 1995, and he was recognized as Montgomery's Top Doctor by the International Association of Internal Medicine in 2015. In addition, he was selected as Physician of the Year by the Montgomery County Medical Society in 2018.

Dr. Underwood served on the Board of the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Physicians during the 1990s and achieved Fellowship in 1999. He is a member of the American Medical Association; National Medical Association; American College of Physicians; Capital City Medical Society; Medical Society of Montgomery County, where he served as President from 2007 to 2008; and MASA.

A member of the Alabama Medical P&T Committee from 2000 to 2004, Dr. Underwood served as chairman from 2002 to 2004. He was Assistant Medical Director for Palliative Care at Baptist Medical Center South from 2008 to 2013. His civic activities include an appointment as Adjunct Professor in

Biology Science at Alabama State University from 1996 to 1998. Dr. Underwood has served his community as a member of the board of directors for a number of organizations, including the Montgomery Area United Way, the Alliance for Responsible Individual Choices for AIDS/HIV, the Montgomery County Health Department Hunt Diabetic Clinic, Oxford Home Health, Central Alabama Home Health, and Father Walters Center for Gifted Children. He has also served on the Board for Habitat for Humanity and as Health Editor for the Montgomery Advertiser.

He served as Secretary-Treasurer for MASA from 2014 to 2015; Vice President from 2016 to 2017; President-elect from 2017 to 2018; and President from 2018 to 2019, becoming the first male African American President of this organization. His service in MASA has been distinguished by his leadership, empathy, and courage, particularly in view of his progressive disability of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Despite the weakness and weight loss from this disease, he has served the Association with passion and optimism. He continues to see his devoted patients in his office.

Dr. Underwood is admired for his career-long dedication to his practice, organized medicine, and his community but claims that his greatest achievement was marrying the former Sara Elizabeth Wallace of Tuskegee and being the proud father of three sons, Slayton, Blake, and Zachary. Tragically, his middle son Blake passed away in November 2018 while a freshman at the University of Alabama. Dr. and Mrs. Underwood have endowed a scholarship in his name for a minority student from Montgomery attending the University of Alabama.

At the April 2019 Annual Session of MASA, the Underwood Minority Scholarship Award was announced in his name to assist with the financial burden of medical school for African American students attending Alabama medical schools. Mark Jackson, Executive Director of MASA, noted, "Naming the scholarship in honor of Dr. Jefferson Underwood for his service to the Association, his patients, and his colleagues seemed only fitting."

The Alabama Chapter is pleased to add Dr. Underwood to the list of Laureate awardees since 1988. His professionalism and service make the Chapter proud to honor him as a colleague, a friend, and an example of the best of the American College of Physicians.