

2020 Awards Announcement

NATIONAL AWARD



*Jane F. Desforges Distinguished Teacher Award
David V. O'Dell, MD MACP*

This national award is bestowed upon a Fellow or Master of the College who has demonstrated the ennobling qualities of a great teacher as judged by the acclaim and accomplishments of former students who have been inspired and achieved positions of leadership in the field of medical education, primarily as teachers.

Dr. David V. O'Dell, MD, MACP was selected by the American College of Physicians to receive the Jane F. Desforges Distinguished Teacher Award. Dr. O'Dell is the LeeRoy Meyer Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). After completing his medical school, internal medicine residency and chief residency at UNMC, he joined the faculty of General Internal Medicine as a clinician-educator. He maintains an active practice in both the inpatient and outpatient arenas.

Dr. O'Dell has been Director of Undergraduate Education for the Department of Internal Medicine since 1991 and served as Junior Clerkship Director for many years. He has been Co-Director of the Primary Care Residency Program since 1989 and has been a long-standing member of the College of Medicine's Curriculum Committee. He is now serving as Phase 3 Director of UNMC's new medical school curriculum. He has been the recipient of numerous teaching awards, including multiple Golden Apple Awards, Top Teacher of Internal Medicine, Physician Teacher of the Year, Nebraska ACP Chapter's LeeRoy Meyer Dedicated Teacher Award, and the inaugural Educator Laureate Award from UNMC.

CHAPTER AWARDS



*Walter J. O'Donohue, Jr. MD Award
Renuga Vivekanandan, MD*

The Walter J. O'Donohue, Jr. Award honors a physician who embodies the qualities set by our late friend and colleague, an ardent supporter of the Nebraska Chapter: great leadership, scholarship and mentoring in his/her career.

Dr. Renuga Vivekanandan, Assistant Dean of Strategy and Accreditation at Creighton University School of Medicine, is board certified in internal medicine and infectious disease. She serves as the Director of Hospital Epidemiology as well as the Director of Antimicrobial Stewardship for CHI Health System (which includes 14 hospitals). An Associate Professor of Internal Medicine at Creighton University, she is a sought-after mentor and collaborator with medical students, residents, and fellows. She is regionally and nationally known for her work in antimicrobial stewardship through her published works and presentations at national conferences.



*Early Career Physician of the Year
Lauren Nelson, MD FACP*

The Early Career Physician Award recognizes an ACP member who has been a major contributor to the American College of Physicians, either locally or nationally, and is within sixteen years of medical school graduation.

Dr. Lauren Nelson is board certified in Internal Medicine and a practicing Internist at Boys Town National Research Hospital. She graduated medical school from Northwestern University in Chicago and came to Omaha for residency at UNMC. During her medical training, she was actively engaged in various research topics including palliative and end of life care, patient safety, diabetes care and working with patients in group and individual medical visits. She led the Nebraska ACP Chapter's Early Career Physicians Council for 3 years, working to ensure that young physicians have mentors to guide them through their career development process. She is currently a member of the National ACP Council of Early Career Physicians as well as the newly formed Committee for Physician Well-being and Professional Fulfillment.