
Nominations sought for 2009 ACS volunteerism and humanitarian awards

The American College of Surgeons, in association with Pfizer Inc., is accepting nominations for the 2009 Surgical Volunteerism Awards and Surgical Humanitarian Award, as well as the newly created Surgical Resident Volunteerism Award.

The ACS/Pfizer Inc. Surgical Volunteerism Award is given in recognition of those surgeons committed to giving something of themselves back to society by making significant contributions to surgical care through organized volunteer activities. This award is intended either for ACS Fellows in active surgical practice, whose volunteerism activities go above and beyond the usual professional commitments, or retired Fellows who have been involved in volunteerism during their active practice and into retirement. For the purposes of these awards, “volunteerism” is defined as professional work in which one’s time or talents are donated for charitable clinical, educational, or other worthwhile activities related to surgery. Volunteerism in this case does not refer to pro bono or uncompensated care provided as a matter of necessity in most practices. Instead, volunteerism should be characterized by the prospective, planned surgical care to underserved patients with no anticipation of reimbursement or economic gains.

The ACS/Pfizer Inc. Surgical Humanitarian Award is given in recognition of those surgeons who have dedicated a substantial portion of their career to ensuring the provision of surgical care to underserved populations without expectation of commensurate reimbursement. This award is intended for a surgeon who has dedicated a significant portion of his or her surgical career to full-time or near-full-time humanitarian efforts rather than routine surgical practice. This effort may reflect a career dedicated to missionary surgery, the founding and ongoing operations of a charitable organization dedicated to providing surgical care to the underserved, or a retirement characterized by surgical volunteer outreach. Having received a compensation for this work does not preclude a nominee from consideration

and, in fact, may be expected based on the extent of the professional obligation.

These volunteerism awards honor ACS Fellows who have made significant contributions to surgical care for the underserved through clinical care, education, implementation of training programs, research, advocacy, or other meaningful undertakings. Candidates for the volunteerism awards may have made these contributions in a domestic, international, or military setting. All surgical subspecialties are eligible for consideration.

Newly created for 2009 is the Surgical Resident Volunteerism Award. This award is intended for Resident Members of the College who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to addressing the unmet needs of surgical patients at home or abroad. Nominees for this award may have had extensive experience during their education in volunteer efforts, such as with international surgical missions or by working with free clinics in underserved areas or may have made substantive contributions to the burgeoning fields of surgical global health research and advocacy.

Nominations will be evaluated by the Socioeconomic Issues Committee of the Board of Governors, with final approval of award winners by the Executive Committee. Evaluation of nominees will take into consideration factors such as the sustainability of the volunteer’s work, the volunteer’s collaboration with health care teams in areas where he or she serves, and any demonstrated impact of the contributions made.

Potential nominees should make note of the following:

- Supplemental materials should be kept to a minimum and will not be returned
- Self-nominations are permissible but require an outside letter of support
- Previous nominees may resubmit an updated application

The deadline for nominations is **February 27, 2009**.

The nomination forms are available in the “Announcements” section of the Operation Giving

Back (OGB) Web site at <http://www.operationgivingback.org>. Forms may also be obtained via mail if preferred. Contact Uriah Melchizedek, OGB Program Coordinator, with such requests.

Completed application forms should be sent to Michael Dalsing, MD, FACS, Chair, Board

of Governors' Committee on Socioeconomic Issues, c/o Uriah Melchizedek, American College of Surgeons, 633 N. Saint Clair St., Chicago, IL 60611; 312/202-5458; fax 312/202-5021; ogb@facs.org.

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