
Nominations sought for 2010 volunteerism and humanitarian award

The American College of Surgeons, in association with Pfizer, Inc, is accepting nominations for the 2010 Surgical Volunteerism Award(s) and the Surgical Humanitarian 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. The awards for domestic, international, and military outreach are intended for ACS surgeons 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. Surgeons currently in residency who have been involved in significant surgical volunteer activities are eligible for the resident award. Surgeons of all specialties are eligible for each these awards.

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 committed 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.

Nominations will be evaluated by the Committee on Socioeconomic Issues of the Board of Governors, with final approval of award winners by the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors.

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 can be re-nominated but require an updated application

The nomination forms will be available for download from the “Announcements” section of the Operation Giving Back Web site during January and February at <http://www.operationgivingback.org>. Nomination forms can also be requested by mail, if preferred. Contact Uriah Melchizedek, Operation Giving Back Program Coordinator, with such requests or any questions.

Completed nomination forms should be addressed to the attention of Robert M. Zwolak, MD, FACS, Chair, Board of Governors’ Committee on Socioeconomic Issues, and can be submitted electronically, or by mail 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. All nominations must be received by Friday, **February 26**.