

Remembering the Past, Honoring the Present, Looking to the Future: The American College of Preventive Medicine 2020 Awards Presentation

Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH, FACPM, President, Board of Regents
Miriam Alexander, MD, MPH, FACPM, Chair, Awards Committee

Between March 2007 and November 2008, preventive medicine lost three luminaries – all of them far too young, and all from diseases that are not currently preventable. William Kane and Ronald Davis both succumbed to pancreatic cancer, and Donald Gemson to Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease. In their honor, ACPM renamed three of its most prestigious awards for these leaders. This allows us to annually remember and acknowledge their contributions while looking to the future potential of our profession.

Each year during the Annual Meeting of the American College of Preventive Medicine, ACPM hosts a gala membership event to honor our award winners. The annual conference is also anchored by the Katharine Boucot Sturgis (KBS) Lecture – ACPM's highest honor. When Preventive Medicine 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the awards gala and KBS Lecture were transformed into a virtual event held on June 26, 2020. We take this opportunity to introduce you to our awardees and to celebrate the history of our profession by re-introducing the preventive medicine leaders for whom some of these awards are named.

The Katharine Boucot Sturgis (KBS) Lecture is ACPM's longest standing and most prestigious award, created by the ACPM Board of Regents in 1979. It is annually given to a nationally recognized leader in recognition of achievements in health promotion and disease prevention. KBS lecturers are provided a national forum at the ACPM annual conference to explore key issues and highlight innovations in health promotion and disease prevention. Past lecturers have included Drs. Jonas Salk, Elizabeth Barrett-Connor, David Satcher, and Ronald Davis.

Dr. Katharine Boucot Sturgis was an early pioneer for women in medicine and a model for resilience and leadership in our profession. Dr. Sturgis graduated from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1942 after marrying, raising children, and interrupting her medical studies to be treated for tuberculosis. Her illness led to

her career in prevention of pulmonary diseases, and her focus on public health surveillance, early identification, and treatment modalities to prevent the spread of pulmonary infections. She was selected as professor and chairperson of preventive medicine at her alma mater in 1952, decades before women began entering medicine and preventive medicine in significant numbers. Following a long string of firsts, Dr. Sturgis was elected as President of ACPM in 1969, the first woman to serve in this role.

In 2020, the 51st KBS lecturer was Dr. Ned Calonge, whose career epitomizes the range of opportunity and accomplishment in our profession. He has been a clinician and Preventive Medicine Department Chair, a state Chief Medical Officer and medical board president, and a family medicine and epidemiology professor. Dr. Calonge is a member of the National Academy of Medicine chairing numerous committees, is a previous chair of the US Preventive Services Task Force and is the current Chair of the Community Preventive Services Task Force. Dr. Calonge currently serves as the President and CEO of The Colorado Trust, a philanthropy with an approach to health equity that makes real the ideals of preventive medicine. Dr. Calonge's timely and inspiring lecture focused on the use of scientific evidence in policy decision making.

The Ronald Davis Special Recognition Award honors outstanding achievements or contributions to the preventive medicine specialty. None of us present at his KBS Lecture in 2008 will ever forget Dr. Davis's speech, nor that he gave it while walking at a treadmill desk to emphasize his focus on lifestyle medicine. Unbeknownst to the audience, Dr. Davis had recently been diagnosed with the cancer that would take his life a short time later. Besides his many accomplishments in tobacco control

and other aspects of preventive and lifestyle medicine, Dr. Davis was the first resident to serve on the AMA Board and the first preventive medicine physician to serve as AMA's President. During his tenure at AMA, he made the organization's historic apology to Black physicians for AMA's long history of excluding their membership.

The 2020 Ronald Davis Special Recognition Award was presented to Dr. Carolyn Murray for her significant contributions to build an exemplary preventive medicine residency program at Dartmouth College and her national service to the field. Dr. Murray's nomination noted "her achievements as an outstanding role model and national leader" who was directly inspired by Dr. Davis. In addition, the nomination described that Dr. Murray "overcame many challenging times to connect public health/preventive medicine with our more clinically based colleagues" by establishing leadership rotations in the hospital setting.

The William Kane Rising Star Award honors an ACPM member within seven years of preventive medicine residency training who possesses a strong commitment to preventive medicine and demonstrates the potential to offer significant contributions to the field. William (Bill) Kane was ACPM Executive Director during the 1980s, creating both the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, and the annual Prevention conference, precursor to today's Preventive Medicine conference. Dr. Kane was a beloved educator and supporter of young physicians.

The 2020 William Kane Rising Star Award was presented to Dr. Maria Mora Pinzon. In the letter nominating Dr. Pinzon, she is described as an exceptional researcher and teacher who is committed to health equity, community service and service to the profession. The nomination summarizes her accomplishments: "Maria has clearly distinguished herself as a rising star, through her outstanding scholarship, commitment to health equity, and dedication to the profession of preventive medicine. She truly embodies Bill Kane's tireless efforts to support and shape the development of students and young professionals who devote their lives to equity, social justice and quality health for all."

The Donald Gemson Resident Award honors a resident member of ACPM, in any year of training, for outstanding achievement in community service, scholarship, research, teaching, and overall leadership. Dr. Gemson was a fellow tobacco warrior with Dr. Davis, known for his leadership in occupational medicine and worksite wellness and his love of teaching. He was honored for his immediate life-saving action and medical leadership in the hours and days after the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York City.

The 2020 Donald Gemson Resident Award was presented to Dr. Hunter Smith, a preventive medicine resident of the Uniformed Services University School of Health Sciences. Dr. Smith serves as a captain in the U.S. Army, already "excelling in a variety of scholarly activities and roles of tremendous responsibility at a junior stage in his career." His nomination emphasized his "commitment to leadership by continuing to seek and excel in areas that challenge his growth and increase knowledge and evidence in our field. He has further shown his commitment to advancing the ACPM, having served on the Medical Student Section, the Resident Physician Section, and now, with his strong passion for ethics, on the Ethics Committee and Nominations Subcommittee."

The Distinguished Federal Preventive Medicine Medical Officer Award recognizes a physician who, while in federal service, has contributed to one or more of the fields of preventive medicine, resulting in significant and enduring improvements in the health of the population. The 2020 award was presented to Dr. Paul "PJ" Jung. His nomination emphasized his "indelible impacts on the agencies in which he has worked, from the Peace Corps to the Commissioned Corps Headquarters to the Indian Health Service" to the Health Services and Resources Administration where he currently serves. Dr. Jung is known for fostering "inter-agency collaboration in unique and creative ways" and "is always ready and willing to mentor junior officers and preventive medicine residents." His nomination further described his work on behalf of our profession: "In the Commissioned Corps, he led the USPHS Physician Professional Advisory Group for two terms and currently represents the medical category on the Commissioned Officers Association Board of Directors. Captain Jung's passion and commitment to the field of preventive medicine is well illustrated by his recent articles, co-authored by Rear Admiral Boris Lushniak, about the issues facing our specialty as well as by his willingness to engage actively in so many aspects of our college and specialty, including serving on ACPM's Board of Regents and other committees."

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes Fellows or members for outstanding service to the College over the course of their career. The 2020 award was presented to Dr. Mark Johnson for career-long contributions. Joining ACPM as a resident 34-years ago, Dr. Johnson worked on "almost every committee," serving multiple times on the conference planning committee and on the Board of Regents, including as President. He has also served as ACPM representative to both the American Board of Preventive Medicine and the governing board of the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was created by CEO Donna Grande to recognize an ACPM Fellow or member for outstanding volunteer service to the College in the past year. This award is to be given to “a volunteer who has shown humility in the face of challenge, dedication beyond measure to the mission of ACPM, tenacity and resolve in advancing the work of the College, and a passion that runs deep into the lifeblood of Preventive Medicine; a volunteer who offers tireless energy, personal time, and immense effort to the College and someone who is an amazing leader, guide, advisor and partner in my role as CEO.”

The 2020 award was presented to Dr. Robert Gilchick who serves the College in numerous roles. Dr. Gilchick is an active member of the Finance Committee, serves as an ACPM representative to and treasurer of the AJPM Board of Governors, and represents ACPM as a delegate to the AMA House of Delegates. Beyond these activities, Dr. Gilchick conducts himself with “incredible poise and finesse,” and has a deft, tactful approach.

The President's Award is made at the discretion of the ACPM President to recognize outstanding activities in service, policy development, research, or education that make contributions to the promotion of prevention. During this unprecedented pandemic, selecting a single Preventive Medicine physician for this award proved impossible. For 2020, the President's Award honors all physician members of the American College of Preventive Medicine, American Association of Public Health Physicians, and the American Public Health Association. Their fast action to characterize and protect their communities, collaborate with clinical care providers, and advise local, state, and national policy makers saved thousands of lives. Unlike their clinical colleagues, the work of public health and preventive medicine physicians is often hidden from public view. These are physicians on the population health front – public health departments, drug and vaccine manufacturers,

population health departments within health care systems and payer organizations, and medical and public health schools. They are working tirelessly to find solutions, often navigating political and public expectations to make recommendations that must balance rapidly changing science and wide-ranging health and economic impacts.

The ACPM Board of Regents, members and Fellows, and staff congratulate all our 2020 award winners and look forward to reviewing next year's inspiring nominations.

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