

History of the Nursing Awards

In 1989, Dr. Ted Lewis, president of the El Paso County Medical Society, and Mary Wall, a local nurse leader, brought together physicians and nurses to look toward the future and determine how they could work together in a more collaborative manner to address challenges. From those discussions, the EPCMS Physician/Nurse Collaborative Committee was born. This committee greatly helped with the dialogue and discussions concerning the Nurse Practice Act. They examined the local impact of disruptive behavior in the health care environment, and established several successful programs and services. The most enduring and successful of these is the EPCMS Excellence in Professional Nursing Awards. In honor of Dr. Lewis, the name was changed in 2009 to the EPCMS, Ted T. Lewis, M.D., Excellence in Professional Nursing Award. We will never forget his knowledge, intelligence and collaborative spirit! To date 173 professional nurses have been honored.



History of the Physician Awards

In 2014, EPCMS leadership, along with the EPCMS Board of Directors, identified a need to celebrate colleagues who exemplify the values embodied in the title "physician". With the help of the Outstanding Physician Selection Committee, the categories and criteria for each award were developed. In 2016, the first El Paso County Medical Society Outstanding Physician Awards were presented. These awards recognize outstanding contributions in the areas of leadership, teaching, clinical inpatient and outpatient medicine, and humanitarianism. The awards are an honor for the physicians who receive them and to our community that benefits from the level of care encouraged by these professional men and women.



Thank You to the Award Selection Committee

Kenneth P. Finn, M.D.

Kem (Michelle) S. Hor, M.D.

David A. Richman, M.D.

Mary Wall, RNC

Mary Williamson, RN

Note: To avoid conflicts of interest, members of the Selection Committee recused themselves from voting for their own nominations if nominated by another, or for individuals they nominated.



Thank You to All Who Were Nominators or Wrote Letters of Recommendation

Candace Garko, RN

Mary Jewell, M.D.

Robin Johnson, M.D.

Lukasz Kowalczyk, M.D.

Megan Lechner, RN

John McGrath, M.D.

Taline Meredith

Miquelle Miller, RN

Shona Murray, M.D.

Laura Pomerenke, M.D.

Brent Shelton, M.D.

Scott Sickbert, M.D.

George Ulrich, M.D.

Jeanette Valentine, M.D.

Cynthia Wacker, RN

Erik Wallace, M.D.

EPCMS, Ted T. Lewis, M.D., Excellence in Professional Nursing Awards

Jodi McFarland, RN, BSN

A Registered Nurse for Advanced Reproductive Medicine at the University of Colorado since 2009, Jodi earned her Bachelor of Science Nursing degree from University of Phoenix. She began her nursing career in 1991 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Denver, focusing in the OB/GYN field.



Jodi brings a unique combination of effectiveness, efficiency, compassion and is a positive influence to both staff and patients. Her patient advocacy and listening ear have helped numerous patients deal with the stresses of infertility and offered them tremendous support through those difficult times. As a Head Nurse, Jodi has been instrumental in increasing patient satisfaction and has spearheaded new protocols to improve efficiency and compliance within both the University of Colorado Denver and Colorado Springs campuses.

Lisa Noll, RN, MS

Lisa earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University, and her Bachelor of Science, as well as her Masters Degree in Nursing, from Boston College. She currently works in the Faith Community Nurse program at Penrose St. Francis Health Services, Mission and Ministry.



Lisa demonstrates superb knowledge in her field of practice and is especially knowledgeable about agencies providing services to underserved individuals. Lisa's patients are treated with dignity, thoughtful attention, and quality medical care. Her humility and compassion are evident in the way she meets their needs. She represents her field of nursing, Centura Health, and Colorado Springs with excellence.

Christina Payne, RN, OCN, MSN

Christina began her career in Nursing as an LPN at the Colorado Mental Health Institute of Pueblo in 1999 and became an RN in 2002 and later an Oncology Certified Nurse in 2012. She has been a Nurse Navigator for the UCHealth Breast Cancer program for the last two years. A major part of her role in the program is to provide emotional support to newly diagnosed cancer patients throughout their oncology journey. As a Nurse Navigator, she is a team leader and a role model for the navigation program.



Dr. Laura Pomerenke stated she nominated Christina for this award because Christina epitomizes what a professional nurse should be: kind, caring, compassionate and with a dedication to tirelessly helping patients with their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Kristen Taylor, RN, BSN, RNC-MNN

Kristen graduated from Western Governors University, Salt Lake City, UT, with a Bachelor of Science Nursing Degree in 2014. She is a Clinical Nurse Manager in the Mother/Baby Unit at Penrose St. Francis Health Services in Colorado Springs. She began her career in nursing at Altoona Regional Health System in Altoona, PA, in 2005.



In every role of her current position, Kristen always puts the care of the family at the center of what she does. She has led many initiatives to improve the care provided to families, helping new families to bond and get to know one another after baby arrives. She is a role model for the nurses she works with and a mentor to the rest of her leadership team, always leading by example.

EPCMS Outstanding Physician Awards

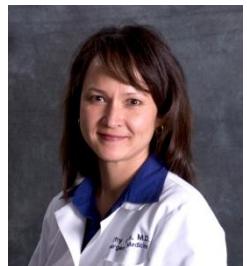
Kathy Cook, M.D. – Leadership

Dr. Cook specializes in Emergency Medicine at Emergency Medical Specialists

Medical School: University of TX, Houston (2002)

Residency: TX Tech University HSC – EM (2002-05)

Board Certified: EM



Dr. Cook, is a member of the Forensic Nurse Examiner

Team at UCHealth Memorial Hospital, serving as their Medical Director. She has been practicing medicine for 12 years and is a Colorado native. Dr. Cook and the team work with victims of violence, dealing with and understanding both the short and long term consequences associated with it, as well as the various ethical considerations.

Caroline Rowlands, M.D. – Clinical Outpatient

Dr. Rowlands specializes in Pediatrics at

DaVita Medical Group

Medical School: Washington University (1991)

Residency: St. Louis Children's Hospital - PD (1991-94)

Board Certified: PD



Dr. Rowlands served as a volunteer preceptor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine - Colorado

Springs Branch. During that time, Dr. Rowlands showed a true dedication to Outpatient care by remaining humble as demonstrated by her desire to learn from her colleagues. Exemplifying the definition of a true mentor, she has been a role model by demonstrating the ever-present need to reflect on one's own knowledge with the mindset that there is always more to learn and a better way to think about patient care.

Joel Dickerman, D.O. – Teaching

Dr. Dickerman specializes in Family Medicine at C-Ahead Medical School: Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (1984)
Internship: Northwest General Hospital (1984-85)
Residency: Northwest General Hospital (1985-86)
Fellowship: University of CO – FM (2001-03)
Board Certified: FP



Among the many leadership positions he currently holds and has held for numerous organizations, Dr. Dickerman serves as the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs at Rocky Vista University, Physician Advisor for UCHealth Memorial Hospital, El Paso County Medical Society, powered by ProPractice Board of Directors, and Colorado Medical Society Board of Directors.

Dr. Dickerman is dedicated to excellence in the practice of medicine and works with community partners to help providers incorporate care to underserved populations. He is a successful and effective leader and has demonstrated his unique attributes over the course of a 32-year career.

EverythingForSight.org – Humanitarian

Accepting the Award: James Barad, M.D.



Dr. James Barad, an ophthalmologist in Colorado Springs, Colorado, realized early in his career that the need for charitable ophthalmic care was greater than local service organizations could provide. As a result, **EverythingForSight.org** was envisioned and established. This organization has operated in our community since 2010. Since that time, **EverythingForSight.org** has helped thousands of people through the efforts of both medical and administrative team members who donate their time and expertise.

The goal of EverythingForSight.org is that no person should be denied care due to an inability to pay for treatment and/or the expenses directly related to their treatment, including transportation, housing, medications, etc.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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