

Norman Cohen, M.D., recognized by American Society of Anesthesiologists



Norm Cohen, M.D., Associate Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, received the 2010 Bertram W. Coffey Award for Excellence in Government from the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) on April 27, in Washington, D.C.

The award recognizes “outstanding contributions by an individual, within the Society’s membership, to the Society’s governmental affairs efforts at either the federal or state levels.” Dr. Cohen currently chairs the ASA’s Section on Professional Practice, with joint responsibilities for coding and payment issues, practice management education, governmental affairs activities, interaction with academic programs, physician resource data analysis, and improving rural access to anesthesiology care. He also represents Oregon on the ASA’s Board of Directors and is currently the President of the Oregon Society of Anesthesiologists.

From 2000 to 2008, Dr. Cohen represented the specialty at the AMA Relative Value Update Committee (RUC), an organization that represents physicians and non-physician healthcare professionals on payment issues to the Medicare program. During his tenure, Dr. Cohen chaired several committees and workgroups, including the Research Subcommittee and the 2005 valuation review of most evaluation and management services. He also coordinated the specialty’s successful efforts to improve anesthesia payments, resulting in a 25% conversion factor increase a few years ago.

In presenting the award, Dr. Alexander Hannenberg, ASA’s President, said of Dr. Cohen that “his work epitomizes the lasting and pervasive power of integrity, diligence, honesty and thoroughness.”

Dr. Cohen joined the OHSU faculty in 2007.