

2009 GME Humanitarian Awards



The second annual OHSU School of Medicine Graduate Medical Education Humanitarian Awards were announced in May 2009, and recognize a commitment to the promotion of patient welfare, both individually and through institutional reform at OHSU. Founded by a generous donation from a grateful OHSU patient, the award provides an initial monetary prize, allowing recipients to further develop their proposals through to a presentation stage in January 2010.

“These awards showcase future physicians and their abilities to have a positive impact on their areas of practice and on OHSU,” said Donald Girard, MD, Associate Dean for Continuing Medical Education and Graduate Medical Education, and Chair of the six-member awards committee. “It was exciting to see how they articulated their visions for the future of humanitarianism in the OHSU community.”

The four awardees and their projects are:

Gary Kegel, MD, a Resident in Orthopedic Surgery, proposed a plan to divert mobility devices such as canes, crutches and walkers no longer needed by the insured population for use by the uninsured population. Use of such devices following surgery accelerates physical recovery and reduces the risk of co-morbidities.

Talia Pindyck, MD, an Intern in Internal Medicine, proposed a project that would improve the quality of intern and resident discharge summaries at OHSU. The proposal includes a 30 minute discharge summary workshop during intern orientation, and follow-up one-on-one and group feedback sessions.

Raj Sehgal, MD, is a first-year Fellow in General Internal Medicine. His project will research internal medicine physicians’ knowledge regarding the costs associated with health care. The resulting data will help determine to what extent costs factor into a provider’s health care decisions, and will help design an educational conference to improve physician knowledge of the economics of health care.

Thayer White, MD, a Resident in Family Medicine practicing at OHSU’s Gabriel Park clinic, proposed a project which aims to improve the pain management of uninsured or under-insured Gabriel Park patients. Grant funds will establish group pain management courses taught by a psychologist specializing in chronic pain, and Dr. White hopes that this model may spread to other primary care locations if its efficacy can be established.

Photo: l-r Talia Pindyck, MD, Thayer White, MD, Gary Kegel, MD, Donald Girard, MD, Raj Sehgal, MD