OHSU School of Medicine Alumni Association Celebrates Its Own

The School of Medicine Alumni Association Annual Dinner and Awards Gala, held at the Waverley Country Club May 6 in Portland, Ore., recognized a number of outstanding alumni and faculty involved in the teaching and mentoring of students in the MD program. Attended by Dean Richardson and over 85 guests, the event was a celebration of the national and international contributions of School of Medicine Alumni in fields as diverse as public health, genetic research and the interface of medicine and media.

The Dean’s Award was presented by Dean Mark Richardson to Lisa Grill Dodson, MD ’91. In his remarks, Dean Richardson cited “Lisa’s passionate commitment to rural health and family medicine as a physician, a teacher and an advocate – a commitment that has permeated all aspects of Lisa’s medical career.” After completing a Family Medicine residency at OHSU, Lisa practiced for seven years in John Day, Ore., and then joined the OHSU faculty in 1999. Dr. Dodson serves as the Director for the Rural and Community Health Clerkship – a rural rotation which gives students exposure to rural medicine. She developed the Oregon Rural Scholars program to advise students who are interested in rural medicine and primary care – helping to make sure that interest is nurtured and maintained over the challenging years of medical school and residency. She teaches courses and serves on the School of Medicine Admissions Committee where she has an eagle eye for students who may have an inclination for rural and primary care medicine. This past year, she helped devise and then lobby in Salem for a loan repayment program for new primary care physicians working in underserved areas, and helped start a new locum tenens program so that physicians working in rural Oregon can take time off. In recognition of her commitment to her patients and her advocacy, Lisa was selected as Oregon Family Physician of the Year for 2009. During his closing remarks, Dean Richardson said, “Lisa Grill Dodson is changing medicine and medical education. She is helping us all to navigate to a better health care future.”
The Esther Pohl Lovejoy, MD Leadership Award was presented to Gretchen Berland, MD ’96, Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine and Associate Director, Medical Humanities and Arts Council, Yale University. The winner of three Emmy Awards before she started in medical school, Dr. Berland was also a producer for MacNeil/Lehrer Productions and the PBS “Nova” program. Dr. Berland received a MacArthur Fellowship grant in 2004 and a succession of awards for her documentary films – most notably the 2009 documentary Rolling. Presenting the Lovejoy award, Lynn Loriaux, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Medicine said, “Dr. Berland has taken her skills in the psychoanalysis of issues and problems in today’s society, made these analyses visible, and coupled them with her medical knowledge to provide insights from inside of medicine rather than from outside of medicine. She is creative, novel, unique. A pathfinder, just as Esther Pohl Lovejoy was.”

The Charles A. Preuss, MD Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to David W. Fleming, MD R’82, Director and Health Officer, Public Health, Seattle & King County, Seattle, Wash. Presenting the award, Thomas Becker, MD, PhD, said that “if there really is a public health army out there, Dr. David Fleming is one of its four-star generals.” Dr. Fleming served as State Epidemiologist for the State of Oregon before becoming Deputy Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and then Acting Director from 2000 to 2003. Dr. Fleming was influential in the development of global HIV vaccines, smallpox vaccinations, and epidemics of West Nile disease and SARS. Dr. Fleming went on to direct the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Health Strategies Program. In this capacity, Dr. Fleming was responsible for the creation, development, and oversight of cross-cutting programs targeting diseases and conditions disproportionately affecting the world’s poorest people and countries. He oversaw the Foundation's portfolios in vaccine-preventable diseases, nutrition, newborn and child health, leadership, emergency relief, and cross-cutting strategies to improve access to health tools in developing countries.
The Richard T. Jones, MD, PhD Distinguished Alumni Scientist Award was presented to Susan B. Olson, PhD ’84, Professor, Department of Molecular & Medical Genetics, OHSU. Presenting the award, Susan Hayflick, MD, Interim Chair, Department of Molecular & Medical Genetics said, “If you or a loved one has suffered from cancer, if you have given birth to a child or your partner has given birth to a child in the past 30 years; if you’ve taken care of children with birth defects or developmental problems in the past 30 years, then you have benefited from Dr. Olson’s work. She runs arguably one of the top cytogenetics labs in the world.” Dr. Olson’s special areas of interest include the role of chromosomal changes in fetal development and survival, cancer and genetic disease and the cellular and molecular basis of Fanconi Anemia. The recipient of numerous awards for her teaching as well as her research skills, Dr. Olson has over 80 peer-reviewed papers to her name and continues to win competitive grant funding from the National Institutes of Health.

The winner of the award for Outstanding Post-Doctoral Paper was Daniel Gareau, PhD. Dr. Gareau’s paper was entitled “Feasibility of digitally-stained multimodal confocal mosaics to simulate histopathology.”

The winner of the award for Outstanding Resident Paper was Jessica Castle, MD. Dr. Castle’s paper was entitled “Novel use of glucagon in a closed-loop system for prevention of hypoglycemia in type 1 diabetes.”

Also recognized at the dinner were a number of Affiliated Faculty members – volunteer members of the School of Medicine Faculty who were nominated by clinical departments and divisions in recognition of their outstanding service to the School’s education mission. The recipients in 2010 were:

Roger E. Alberty, MD, nominated by the Department of Surgery
Gary Oxman, MD, nominated by the Department of Public Health/Preventive Medicine
Peter Reagan, MD ’77 & Bonnie Reagan, MD ’84, nominated by the Department of Family Medicine
James Resk, MD, FAAP, nominated by the Department of Pediatrics