

## Recognizing Outstanding Service Excellence



**Dr. Paul Bascom, FACP**  
**Palliative Medicine & Comfort Team**

**Dr. Erik Fromme from Hematology Oncology submitted the following nomination . . .**

A patient dying of cancer with Providence Hospice asked his son to help him get physician aid in dying. Desperate, the son emailed his Oncologist, who forwarded the email to the Palliative Medicine and Comfort Care Team at OHSU. Dr. Bascom, although he had never met the patient before, recognized that this could be a cry for help. He emailed the son back giving him his cell phone number. The patient was in terrible pain because he was afraid to take more than a minimal dose of pain medication. Dr. Bascom encouraged him to take enough to be comfortable, and then went to see the patient at his home the following day. The patient was more comfortable, appeared to be actively dying, and there was no need for physician aid in dying in this patient's situation. There are a number of remarkable things here, but mostly I'm struck by the compassion of Dr. Bascom, who simply recognized a patient and a family in need and did exactly what was needed.



**Award Recipient - March 2009**