

Recognizing Outstanding Service Excellence



**Robert "Hugo" Richardson, M.D.
Palliative Medicine and Ethics Consultant**

Erik Fromme, M.D. from Hematology/Oncology submitted the following nomination...

I want to nominate my colleague, Dr. Robert "Hugo" Richardson for a Golden Rose award. Dr. Richardson is the kindest physician, possibly the kindest person that I have ever met. That kindness is inevitably felt by every patient and colleague that interacts with Hugo. An example of the impact that he has on patients is a patient whose family wanted to participate in "donation after cardiac death". Being the responsible physician in this situation requires exquisite sensitivity and impeccable integrity. With none of the treating physicians able to participate Hugo agreed to help, talked the family through the process, sat with the patient in the operating room as he took his last breaths, and cried with the family after he had died and was able to donate several life saving organs. Although he only 'knew' this patient and family for a couple of hours, Hugo was one of two people asked to speak at this man's funeral. Despite not knowing what to say, he agreed out of respect for the patient, his sacrifice, and the bond he felt with the family. Since August we have been short staffed as one of our team members has been ill. Without Hugo's participation our team would have been forced to turn down consults and the service itself might have collapsed. He works full days seeing the most distressed patients and families in the hospital. Although he is 72 years old and I am 30 years younger I cannot keep up with him. His intense sense of responsibility will not allow him to give his patients anything less than his best. Did I mention that Hugo is a volunteer? What an unbelievable gift to OHSU's patients, families and staff.



Award Recipient - March 2010