Distinguished Service Award Recipients

9th Annual State Dinner, October 23, 1956
Jonas E. Salk, MD—In recognition of his work on poliomyelitis vaccine which led to his achievements in developing the anti-polio vaccine properly known as salk vaccine.

15th Annual State Dinner, October 13, 1962
John H. Gibbon Jr., MD—In recognition of his outstanding contribution in developing and perfecting the heart-lung machine.

20th Annual State Dinner-Dance, September 29, 1967
James Z. Appel, MD—In recognition of his outstanding leadership which reflected great credit on the profession throughout one of medicine’s most crucial periods.

23rd Annual State Dinner-Dance, October 6, 1970
Eugene P. Pendergrass, MD—In recognition of a lifetime of accomplishments in the science, art, and organization of medicine.

27th Annual State Dinner-Dance, October 11, 1974
Russell B. Roth, MD—In recognition of his outstanding public and professional activities throughout his medical career.

28th Annual State Dinner-Dance, October 7, 1975
Jonathan E. Rhoads, MD—In recognition of his service in the science and art of medicine and for his life and activities which reflect great credit on the profession.

29th Annual State Dinner-Dance, September 17, 1976
John P. Hubbard, MD—In recognition of service in the science and art of medicine and for his life and activities which reflect great credit on the profession, including credit for beginning the era of heart surgery.

31st Annual State Dinner-Dance, October 31, 1978
Henry I. Bockus, MD—In recognition of service in the science and art of medicine and for his life and activities which reflect great credit on the profession, including credit for his distinguished career and outstanding work in the field of gastroenterology.

133rd Annual Business Meeting, October 23, 1982
Baruch S. Blumberg, MD, PhD—In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the science of medicine in developing a screening test for hepatitis and inventing a vaccine for hepatitis B virus.

134th Annual Business Meeting, October 23, 1983
William Y. Rial, MD—In recognition of his exemplary dedication to the medical profession and distinguished national leadership in organized medicine.
136th Annual Business Meeting, October 26, 1985
Thomas E. Starzl, MD, PhD—In recognition of his outstanding contributions as clinician, teacher, and author and for his pioneering work in the field of liver transplant surgery.

138th Annual Business Meeting, October 24, 1987
George E. Farrar, Jr., MD—In recognition of his outstanding contributions to organized medicine and his exemplary work as a clinician, teacher, and author.

139th Annual Business Meeting, October 22, 1988
John F. Rineman—Executive Vice President, Pennsylvania Medical Society, honored for his long and distinguished career as a leading executive in organized medicine, having been recognized at the national level as well as the state.

141st Annual Business Meeting, October 20, 1990
Lewis W. Bluemle Jr., MD—In recognition of his abilities and accomplishments as an administrator, teacher, inventor, researcher and civic activist. He built Philadelphia's first kidney dialysis unit and left a lasting mark as president of Thomas Jefferson University for 13 years.

144th Annual Business Meeting, October 23, 1993
George J. Magovern, MD—In recognition of his pioneering work in cardiac surgery. He invented the aortic valve which bears his name and participated in the development of the world’s only released nuclear pacemaker. He performed the first cardiomyoplasty in the United States.

145th Annual Business Meeting, October 22, 1994
Robert W. Ford, MD—In recognition of his exemplary public and professional activities, and for his outstanding volunteerism, as co-founder of the World Health Mission, that would place himself in unpredictable and even dangerous situations in order to provide medical care to those greatest in need.

148th Annual Business Meeting, October 18, 1997
Abraham J. Twerski, MD—In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the art and science of medicine, and for his compassionate and dedicated leadership in the vanguard of addiction medicine.
(Presented January 1998)

150th Annual Business Meeting, October 1999
C. Everett Koop, MD—In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the art and science of medicine, and for his compassionate dedication to his patients and to the public good.
(Presented October 28, 1999)

153rd Annual Business Meeting, October 2002
Ferdinand L. Soisson, Jr., MD—A long-time member of the Pennsylvania Medical Society and former board member, Dr. Soisson was chosen for the 2002 Distinguished Service Award for his well-rounded lifetime achievements. In addition to volunteering numerous hours to organized medicine, Dr. Soisson has also served as the Cambria County Commissioner. Whether in organized medicine or politics, Dr. Soisson has given a lifetime of service to improving the quality of life in Cambria County.
(Presented October 19, 2002, in Hershey)
156th Annual Business Meeting, October 2005
Sheila Moriber Katz, MD—A 27-year member of the Pennsylvania Medical Society. During her 20-plus years as a Pennsylvania-based academic renal-transplant pathologist, she has authored more than 200 publications. Dr. Katz first became recognized for her work during Philadelphia’s 1976 outbreak of Legionnaires’ disease. During that outbreak, she identified the causal bacterium. With National Institutes of Health support, she devised a sputum diagnostic test, wrote textbooks, and helped explain the microbe’s pathophysiology. Dr. Katz is a national academic leader, and a co-founder of Philadelphia’s innovative community-based School of Public Health and the International Arts-Medicine Association. In 1999, President Clinton recruited her to the position of special expert at the National Institutes of Health and executive director of the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy. In 2002, she was interviewed for the position of U.S. Surgeon General. (Presented October 15, 2005, in Hershey)

157th Annual Business Meeting, October 2006
Robert T. Sataloff, MD—A member of the Pennsylvania Medical Society since 1980, Dr. Sataloff serves in various capacities on numerous organizations: president of the Pennsylvania Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery; president of the International Association of Phonosurgery; chairman of the board of the Voice Foundation; chairman of the board of the American Institute for Voice and Ear Research; professor and chairman of the department of otolaryngology—head and neck surgery, and associate dean for clinical academic specialties at Drexel University College of Medicine; and, chairman, department of otolaryngology—head and neck surgery at Graduate Hospital. He has also served as chairman of the board of governors at Graduate Hospital and president of the American Laryngological Association. Dr. Sataloff has written more than 600 publications, including 36 books. He is also editor-in-chief of two national peer-reviewed medical journals. (Presented October 21, 2006, in Hershey)

158th Annual Business Meeting, October 2007
Albert B. Ferguson, Jr., MD—An orthopedic surgery pioneer, he is credited with setting the standard for using metals in the body. He has served as the chair of the department of orthopedic surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine from 1953 to 1986 where he pioneered the use of titanium and other durable materials for hip and knee replacements. Dr. Ferguson has published several medical textbooks and more than 200 scientific articles. In 2004, he was honored with the American Orthopedic Association Medal for outstanding contributions to orthopedic surgery. Retiring in 1986, Dr. Ferguson continues to be a supportive member of both the Pennsylvania Medical Society—a member since 1953—and the Allegheny County Medical Society. (Presented October 22, 2007, in Hershey)

159th Annual Business Meeting, October 2008
Doris Bartuska, MD—Is described as an endocrinologist whose advanced treatments focused on the genetic aspects of endocrine diseases, endocrinology of aging, osteoporosis, and thyroid diseases. Her work stimulated national interest in a woman’s health agenda with emphasis on prevention and treatment of osteoporosis and smoking including smoke-related disease. Her involvement in medical humanities and medical ethics led to participation in the President’s Forum on Physicians and Society Responsibility. She has been a member of the Pennsylvania Medical Society since 1972. Dr. Bartuska is currently emeritus professor of medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine. (Presented October 25, 2008, in Hershey)
Distinguished Service Award Recipients

160th Annual Business Meeting, October 2009
Nikitas J. Zervanos, MD—A family medicine physician, has held faculty positions at Temple University School of Medicine, Penn State College of Medicine, Harvard Medical School and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Has given presentations about drug and alcohol abuse prevention and served as chairman of the Commission on Alcoholism and Drug abuse for the Lancaster City and County Medical Society. He has also served on the Governor’s Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse as well as other community organizations. (Presented December 11, 2009, in Lancaster)

162nd Annual Business Meeting, October 2011
Luther W. Brady, MD—A Philadelphia doctor, who is hailed as one of the world’s foremost oncologists, Dr. Brady is the Hylda Cohn/American Cancer Society Professor of Clinical Oncology and Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology and Distinguished University Professor at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. His lengthy career is filled with many contributions to the practice of medicine as well as contributions to his community. He has authored books and research papers. He has raised funds for art museums and operas. Politicians have turned to him to lead committees. During his career, he has served as president of every major professional society related to his field including the American College of Radiation Oncology, American Board of Radiology, and Radiological Society of North America. (Presented October 15 2011, in Hershey)

163rd Annual Business Meeting, October 2012
Denise E. Zimmerman—Executive Vice President, Pennsylvania Medical Society, honored for her long and distinguished career as a leading executive in organized medicine. (Presented October 27 2012, in Hershey)

165th Annual Business Meeting, October 2014
Audrey E. Evans, MD—A Philadelphia physician who is co-founder of the first Ronald McDonald House that opened in 1974 in Philadelphia. Dr. Evans is known as a pioneer in the clinical study and treatment of childhood cancers, particularly neuroblastoma the most common of the solid childhood cancers. (Presented October 18, 2014, in Hershey)

166th Annual Business Meeting, October 2015
M. Elaine Eyster, MD—A hematologist from Hershey who is credited for her role in ground-breaking clinical and research studies of hemophilia patients, especially regarding HIV and Hepatitis C related complications. (Presented October 24, 2015, in Hershey)

168th Annual Business Meeting, October 2017
Gerald Tracy, MD—A cardiovascular disease specialist from South Abington Township, Dr. Tracy was instrumental in helping to start The Commonwealth Medical College (now Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine) which traces its origins to grassroots efforts of visionary individuals including Dr. Tracy who foresaw what a community-based medical school would bring to Northeastern Pennsylvania. (Presented October 24, 2017, in Hershey)
Physician Award for Community Voluntary Service Recipients

(First presented in April 1994. Today, the Award is presented during the Society’s annual House of Delegates in October.)

168th Annual Business Meeting, October 2017
Koroush Khalighi, MD, of Northampton County

164th Annual Business Meeting, October 2013
Deborah Baceski, MD, of Somerset County
Marc Schneiderman, MD, of Allegheny County

162nd Annual Business Meeting, October 2011
Eardly K. Wickramasinghe, MD, of Erie County

158th Annual Business Meeting, October 2007
James A. Yates, MD, of Dauphin County

156th Annual Business Meeting, October 2005
Joseph G. English, MD, of Lycoming County

152nd Annual Business Meeting, October 2001
H. Robert Davis, MD, of Cumberland County

150th Annual Business Meeting, October 1999
John P. Pagana, MD, of Northumberland County

148th Annual Business Meeting, October 1997
Carl Ellenberger Jr., MD, of Lebanon County

147th Annual Business Meeting, October 1996
Charles R. Mershon, MD, of Lancaster County

146th Annual Business Meeting, October 1995
Kenneth L. Cooper, MD, of Lycoming County

145th Annual Business Meeting, October 1994
Helen W. Gurson, MD, of Allegheny County
Physician Award for International Voluntary Service Recipients

167th Annual Business Meeting, October 2016
Baker Henson, DO, of Dauphin County

165th Annual Business Meeting, October 2014
Mukul L. Parikh, MD, of Dauphin County
Richard C. Lanning, MD, FACS, of Dauphin County

163rd Annual Business Meeting, October 2012
Robert C. Cicco, MD, of Allegheny County

161st Annual Business Meeting, October 2010
Daniel R. Lattanzi, MD, of Allegheny County

159th Annual Business Meeting, October 2008
Jack Demos, MD, of Allegheny County

157th Annual Business Meeting, October 2006
Mark N. Perlmutter, MD, of Luzerne County

155th Annual Business Meeting, October 2004
Domingo Alvear, MD, of Dauphin County

153rd Annual Business Meeting, October 2002
Co-recipients
Christopher Nead Chapman, MD, of Northampton County
Neil A. Hoffman, MD, of Berks County

151st Annual Business Meeting, October 2000
George E. Cimochowski, MD, of Luzerne County

149th Annual Business Meeting, October 1998
Robert M. Davis, MD, of York County
Grant for Healthy Living in Ethnic Communities

2017
Community Volunteers in Medicine, West Chester, PA

2016
Katallasso Family Health Center, York, PA

2015
The Wright Center’s Asian Medical Home, Lackawanna County

2014
The North Penn YMCA’s H.I.P. Kids program (Health Intervention Program), Montgomery County

2013
The WeCare Street Outreach Program, Washington County

2012
The Peer Counseling, Leadership Development, and Mentorship to Reduce Obesity Program, Lycoming County
Community Organization Diversity Award Recipients

160th Annual Business Meeting, October 2009
Abington Memorial Hospital, Montgomery County