



Award FAQs

David C. Leach Award

The David C. Leach Award

Background

Why did the ACGME establish the David C. Leach Award?

In an effort to honor the former Executive Director of the ACGME (1997 – 2007), David C. Leach, MD, and his contributions to resident education and well-being, the ACGME created this award in 2008, with the first recipients in 2010. This award is unique in that it acknowledges and honors residents, fellows, and resident/fellow teams and their contribution to graduate medical education.

Who is eligible?

- residents or fellows
- faculty and residents or fellows
- multidisciplinary teams (that include faculty and residents/fellows/allied health professionals/others) that feature resident/fellow involvement

Who may nominate?

- program directors
- DIOs
- RRCs
- residency coordinators

What are the criteria?

- the resident/fellow (or resident/fellow team) will have demonstrated excellence in GME in at least one of the five following areas:
 - fostering innovation and improvement in the learning environment
 - increasing the program's emphasis on educational outcomes
 - increasing efficiency and reducing non-educational burden in the program
 - improving communication and collaboration in education and patient care within the program and/or institution
 - advancing humanism in the patient care environment and among care givers

Examples of the above may include:

- a house officer and residency coordinator who have designed an innovative method to improve the program's evaluation system
- a program director and chief resident with extraordinary vision for curriculum design and teaching
- a house officer who has developed and implemented an improved system of communicating within the program
- a team of faculty, residents and others collaborating to identify and assess educational outcomes for the program
- programs that promote resident well-being
- a team that improves patient care processes and implements sustainable patient-centered care changes
- a house officer or resident team that uses poems, music, or art to teach the skills of the heart (courage, honesty, humility) and self-reflection to improve patient care and resident well-being

Application Instructions

Two components are required for application:

1. A completed application form
2. Three letters of support
3. If applying as a team, a team leader must be designated. This individual is responsible for the project and for receiving the award on behalf of the team.

About the Letters of Support

- Letters should be addressed to ACGME Awards Committee.
- The letters may be from faculty, department chairs, program directors, designated institutional officials (DIOs), other institutional representatives, review committee members, residency coordinators, nurses, patients, etc.
- Comments from a group, e.g. faculty, residents, etc. should be compiled into one "group letter." We will not accept more than three letters of support for each nominee/team.
- The letters should show how the nominee/team has made a positive impact in at least one of the five criteria outlined above.

Where do I send the material?

The application form may be downloaded from the ACGME website and emailed along with the support letters to: DeLonda Dowling at ddowling@acgme.org.

If you have any questions, you may contact DeLonda Dowling at ddowling@acgme.org (by phone at 312/755-5059) or Amy Dunlap at adunlap@acgme.org (by phone at 312/755-5075). **All materials (application form and support letters) must arrive by email in one pdf.** To do this, assemble all materials and scan. The resulting PDF can then be emailed. Material received in piecemeal will not be accepted.

What is the deadline for nominations?

The deadline is **Thursday, March 15, 2012**, by 5:00 p.m. CST. Nominations received after that date will not be accepted.

When will the award winners be notified?

- Award winners will be notified by letter in mid-late September 2012.
- Announcements will also be posted on the ACGME website.

How many awards will be given?

- Five residents or teams will be awarded a \$2,500 cash award and a plaque.
 - If a team wins, they will share the cash award and the team will receive one plaque—each individual on the team will receive an award certificate. The team leader and their guest will travel, courtesy of ACGME to the Annual Educational Conference.
 - If an individual wins, they and their guest will receive the entire award and a plaque and travel, courtesy of the ACGME, to the Annual Educational Conference.

When will the awards be presented?

- Awards will be presented in March 2013 at the ACGME's Annual Educational Conference.