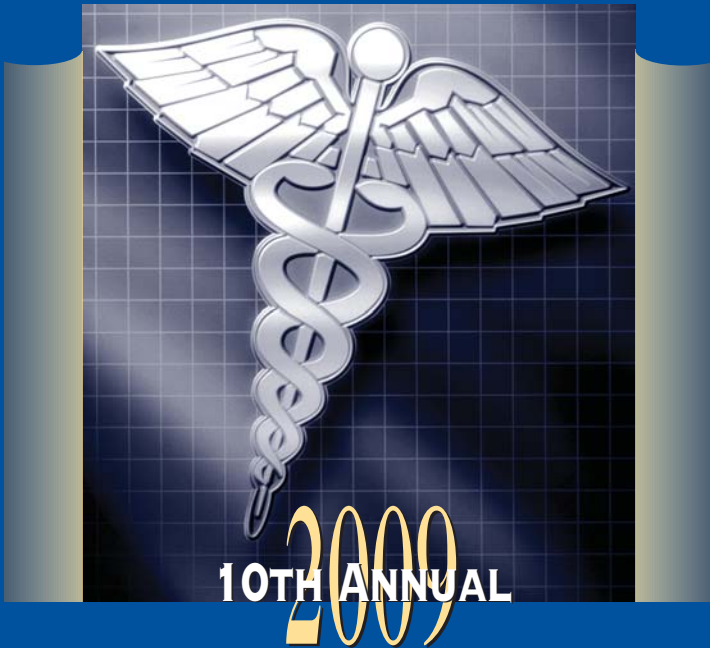


The Columbia University Medical Center  
Department of Nursing



## PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Wednesday • October 7, 2009  
Wintergarden • 3:30-6:00 pm

┌ NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital  
└ Columbia University Medical Center

**The Columbia University Medical Center**

**Department of Nursing proudly acknowledges**

**our physician colleagues for their shared commitment**

**to providing a collaborative, collegial environment**

**which supports the highest standards**

**of quality patient care and enhances**

**all aspects of clinical practice.**

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**Physician of the Year Awards Committee 2009**

**Co-Chairs:**

**Veda Gunter, RN**  
**Melinda Lugay, RN**

**Members:**

**William Atkinson, RN**  
**Media Berghout, RN**  
**Mary Clark, RN**  
**Ruth Korn, RN**  
**Audrey St. John, RN**

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital  
Columbia University Medical Center  
Department of Nursing

2009  
10TH ANNUAL

**PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

**Presentation of Awards by Nurse Colleagues**

**Award Recipients**

**HOUSE STAFF AWARD**

**Brian Levine, MD**

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Presented by Melineth Cafe, RN

**Lisa Marie Ruppert, MD**

Department of Rehabilitation Medicine  
Presented by Penny Sacca, RN

**ATTENDING PHYSICIAN AWARD**

**Michael Argenziano, MD**

Department of Surgery  
Presented by Leonie Campbell, RN

**Daniel Crossman, MD**

Department of Medicine-Hospital Medicine  
Presented by Chinette Salveron, RN

**David Diuguid, MD**

Department of Medicine  
Presented by Nadeen Robinson, RN

**Jessie Wilt, MD**

Department of Medicine  
Presented by Sandy Jaquez, RN



## HOUSE STAFF AWARD



### BRIAN LEVINE, MD

DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

Dr. Brian Levine graduated from Cornell University *cum laude*. He completed his Doctor of Medicine at New York University School of Medicine. While pursuing his medical education, Dr. Levine was awarded the *George Sadowsky Prize* for exemplary innovation using the internet for community service. In 2008 he was honored with the *Arthur Zitrin Award in Bioethics*, the *Endocrine Society Student Achievement Award* and the *Joseph E. Constantine Award in Obstetrics and Gynecology*. Dr. Levine was a member of the inaugural class of the highly-selective Catherine B. Reynolds Graduate Fellowship in Social Entrepreneurship. During this Fellowship at NYU, and still now, Dr. Levine serves as the Chief Medical Officer of AfricaAid where he co-founded the Mobile Doctors Network or MDNet—an innovative program that creates free mobile phone networks for all physicians and health administrators within African nations. This healthcare initiative—the first of its kind—not only allows all physicians within each national network to communicate for free, it also gives each physician access to a country-wide directory of physicians and the ability to manage bulk SMS messaging free of charge. MDNet Ghana, now supported by Vodafone, has a 95% doctor participation rate with over 1,900 physicians linked in its free communication network, while MDNet Liberia, supported by MTN, has a 100% doctor participation rate with more than 140 physicians on the network. Since the program's inception in January 2008, Ghanaian doctors have logged more than a million calls, averaging a total of 2,300 hours of medical discussion per month. Dr. Levine hopes to expand this program from Ghana and Liberia to Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda by the end of 2011. Dr. Levine has been featured in *MobileActive.org*, *Voice of America News*, *PRI's The World* (a co-production of WGBH/Boston, PRI, and the BBC World Service) and, *Microsoft Health and Well-Being* for his compassionate, successful efforts to bring empowering technologies to developing nations.

Dr. Levine is presently a Resident (PGY 2) in the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital Columbia University Medical Center Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He has authored more than 15 original scientific articles/abstracts and made many presentations at national academic meetings prior to starting the Residency. In June he was honored by medical students in the Department as the recipient of the *2009 Excellence in Teaching Award*. According to colleagues from the 6 Hudson South Surgical Oncology Unit, "Dr. Levine's outstanding commitment to improving team dynamics through education and communication has positively impacted every level of patient care." He believes that "when we are all working in synchrony we can truly provide outstanding patient care." Colleagues say, "Dr. Levine never underestimates the capabilities of team colleagues." He "views all disciplines as essential links in the chain of care, made stronger by compassionate leadership at the bedside." He "recognizes our challenges with complex patients, and offers practical and emotional support and assistance to further the quality, patient-centered plan."

Dr. Levine is "caring, conscientious, patient focused and team oriented... Top notch in every sense and one of the hardest working physicians on our team." It is "a privilege to work with a physician who is improving so many lives both here, and across the globe by bringing empowerment through progress and dedication to excellence."



## LISA MARIE RUPPERT, MD

DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION MEDICINE



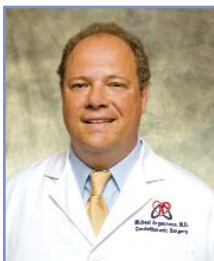
Dr. Lisa Marie Ruppert graduated *cum laude* from St. John's University. She completed her Doctor of Medicine with high honors at Ross University School of Medicine. She completed her Internship in Internal Medicine at Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center. Dr. Ruppert is a Resident (PGY4) in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. She presently serves as the Chief Resident, an honor which her colleagues say, "she has earned and deserves for distinguishing herself as an outstanding Resident physician." Dr. Ruppert "exceeds expectations in our six core competencies: medical knowledge, patient care, practice based learning and improvement and communication skills." During her Residency, she has served on the House Staff Quality Council and the Graduate Medical Education Committee. Dr. Ruppert's research interests include osteoporosis, osteoporosis and oncology and spinal cord injury. In 2007 Dr. Ruppert was awarded a Proctor and Gamble grant for her research with co-investigator Michael Stubblefield, MD on "Osteoporosis Knowledge and Adherence," a retrospective study in collaboration with Memorial Sloan-Kettering, assessing osteoporosis management in cancer patients. Dr. Ruppert is the primary author of the book chapter, "Psychiatric Aspects of Rehabilitation" in the American Psychological Oncology Society: Psycho-Oncology, to be published in 2010. Upon completion of her Residency, Dr. Ruppert hopes to pursue a Fellowship in Spinal Cord Injury Medicine. As a child and young adult Dr. Ruppert was a successful competitive gymnast. At age nine, while still entertaining a child's fantasy of becoming a trapeze artist in the circus, she suffered a serious injury to her arm requiring extensive treatment and rehabilitation. This painful, albeit transforming experience, set her on a new course of utilizing her extraordinary strength and intelligence to become a physician. Dr. Ruppert's knowledge and empathetic understanding of the hurdles faced by a severely injured friend has in part inspired her goal of advancing the care and rehabilitation of individuals with spinal cord injury.

On the Rehabilitation Medicine Inpatient Unit (8GN), Dr. Ruppert and a team of gifted professionals help patients with physical and cognitive disabilities to achieve optimal functioning and independence. Often patients and the care team must overcome daunting obstacles and setbacks. Colleagues say, "support and determination are essential to keeping a positive outlook during disappointing days and weeks." The "optimism and encouragement" that Dr. Ruppert offers her patients, families and colleagues serves to "inspire, motivate and strengthen the commitment to the difficult work ahead." Dr. Ruppert is described as a "shining light" in the Department, "illuminating the path to functional independence with sincerity, compassion and excellent patient care."

Borrowing from the words of the 14th Dalai Lama, one colleague noted, "when we feel responsible, concerned and committed, we begin to feel deep emotion and great courage." Dr. Ruppert's "extraordinary level of responsibility and commitment helps both patients and staff to see beyond limitations and courageously focus on hope and possibility." The partnership of caring is enriched by her "outstanding clinical expertise, mentoring and leadership."



## ATTENDING PHYSICIAN AWARD



### MICHAEL ARGENZIANO, MD

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Dr. Michael Argenziano is the Director of the Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery and Surgical Arrhythmia programs at the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. He is an Associate Professor of Surgery at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He serves as the Director of the Cardiothoracic Surgery Research Laboratory and Clinical Research Organization, and is Associate Director of the Thoracic Surgery Residency Program. He also serves as the Medical Director of the Cardiothoracic Surgery Postoperative Care Unit. His research interests include heart failure, cardiac arrhythmias, cardiovascular physiology, and minimally invasive surgery. He has authored over 100 journal articles, 20 books and chapters, and 180 abstracts. He has presented his findings at over 100 national and international scientific conferences, and has received numerous grants and awards for his pioneering work. Dr. Argenziano has served as lead investigator of two national FDA trials of robotic surgery, and made surgical history in July 2001 when he performed the first totally robotic open-heart operation in U.S. history. His current research support includes the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education's *Career Development Award*, and he currently serves as Columbia's Principal Investigator in the NIH/NHLBI Network for Cardiothoracic Surgical Investigations. Dr. Argenziano is a graduate of Columbia College (*cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa*). He earned his Doctor of Medicine from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and completed a General Surgery Residency and Research Fellowship at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. He then completed a Special Fellowship in Surgical Electrophysiology, a Fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery, also at the Columbia University Medical Center, and an Advanced Fellowship in Mechanical Cardiac Assistance, all at Columbia University. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery, the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, and the Heart Rhythm Society. He is a member of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, the American Heart Association, the International Society of Minimally Invasive Surgery, and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He currently serves as the Vice President of the New York Society for Thoracic Surgery, and will serve as the society's President in 2010. He has been listed in *Castle Connolly's America's Top Doctors*, and in *New York Magazine's Best Doctors*.

Dr. Argenziano is dedicated to seeing that his patients never miss a heart beat, and are able to enjoy as full and healthy lives as possible. Colleagues from the 5HN Cardiothoracic Stepdown Unit commend his outstanding commitment to patients and to compassionate, Relationship-Based Care. To further team knowledge "he participates in nursing conferences and shares information about his visionary surgical work as well as information regarding advances impacting care at the bedside." He has invited nurses to view certain procedures to enhance their understanding of the care required post-operatively. He "proactively implements suggestions for improving both patient and staff satisfaction." Dr. Argenziano "arranged for the purchase of ergonomically designed chairs for staff—only one example of the many practical ways in which he promotes a healthy, safe and comfortable workplace for all."

"Enormously dedicated, conscientious and diligent, Dr. Argenziano inspires colleagues to follow his lead and explore pathways to better care." In the hearts and minds of both patients and colleagues, he has earned a lasting place of honor.

## ATTENDING PHYSICIAN AWARD



### DANIEL CROSSMAN, MD

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE-HOSPITAL MEDICINE



Dr. Daniel Crossman completed his undergraduate studies at the University of California. He received his Doctor of Medicine from Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Crossman completed both his Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center. He serves as an Assistant Attending Physician (Hospitalist) at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center, and as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons. He is board certified in Internal Medicine. Dr. Crossman is the Site Director (Medicine Rotation) for the Weill Cornell Medical College Physician Assistant Program. He also serves as Key Faculty Advisor for the Medicine Residency Program at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center. He is a member of the Combined Cardiac Arrest/Rapid Response Committee and the Medicine Electronic Documentation Committee.

Working collaboratively with team colleagues on the Hospitalist Unit, 7 Garden South, Dr. Crossman oversees the care of patients with medical problems such as pneumonia, diabetes, congestive heart failure and renal failure. A number of these patients are also struggling to cope with emotional, social and economic issues surrounding their medical conditions or life circumstances. Presenting with varied and complex needs, “these patients require the coordinated efforts of an interdisciplinary team to develop a comprehensive continuum of care during the hospitalization, and post-discharge.” Dr. Crossman facilitates communication and teamwork by “listening and incorporating the suggestions and observations of colleagues, and providing updates concerning patient progress, or changes in the plan.” One colleague noted, “to be asked ‘what do you think?’ by a physician makes me further appreciate my role as a patient advocate.” Dr. Crossman conducts “interdisciplinary team meetings in a manner that encourages critical thinking and the sharing of perspectives to enhance overall care.” He frequently attends the nurse huddle and participates in the discussion of the day’s challenges. His attendance at the huddle is “greatly appreciated, as his input and direction have been instrumental in helping nurse colleagues to manage and resolve issues before they become problems.” He is an avid supporter of Relationship-Based Care (RBC), and “takes a leading role in discussing and reinforcing the behaviors and outcomes that are expected.” He is “aware of the goals and ambitions of fellow colleagues and of their commitment to achieving high patient satisfaction scores, and he proactively assists in furthering and achieving these goals.” Colleagues say, “Dr. Crossman keeps a watchful eye on how we are managing throughout the day. He is aware of the demands of our workload and available to calmly engage resources as needed to ensure the efficient, compassionate delivery of quality care.” “He is a model of resourcefulness and equanimity.”

Dr. Crossman is admired by patients and families who respond very favorably to his “intrinsically caring personality, great empathy and extraordinary medical knowledge and professionalism.” Through education, open communication and appreciative collaboration, Dr. Crossman is making a positive and empowering difference in the lives of both patients and colleagues. One colleague noted, “together, we are maintaining a healing environment of quality and compassion that is unparalleled.”

## ATTENDING PHYSICIAN AWARD



**DAVID DIUGUID, MD**  
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Dr. David Diuguid is the Hope Sheridan Associate Professor of Clinical Hematology in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology at Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons. He is an Associate Attending in the Departments of Medicine and Pathology at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center. He serves as the Head of the Hematology Section for the Division of Hematology/Oncology, and as Director of the Coagulation Service. He is the Director of the Hematology Section of the Applied Pathophysiology Course in the Department of Medicine. He also works with the Hematology Consult Service and the General Medicine Ward Service. A preeminent Hematologist, Dr. Diuguid is in the forefront of the care and treatment of patients with bleeding and coagulation disorders, and hematological malignancies including lymphoma, acute and chronic leukemia, and myeloma. Dr. Diuguid received his undergraduate degree from Harvard College where he graduated *cum laude*. He earned his Doctor of Medicine from Weill Cornell Medical College, Cornell University. He completed his Residency at Boston University Medical Center where he served as Chief Resident. He completed his Fellowship training in the Division of Hematology/Oncology at Tufts New England Medical Center in Boston. Dr. Diuguid is board certified in Hematology, Internal Medicine and Oncology. He is a member of the American Society of Hematology, the Ernest Everett Just Society and the Massachusetts Medical Society. Dr. Diuguid is the recipient of numerous awards and honors for his scholarship, research and teaching. In 2006 he was awarded the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center *Senior Faculty Housestaff Award for Teaching Excellence*, and the *Ewig Award for Teaching Excellence (Mid-Career)*. He is the author of numerous original articles, case reports, book chapters and abstracts contributing to the knowledge of Hematology/Oncology. He also serves as a reviewer for the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Dr. Diuguid has been listed in *Castle Connolly's America's Top Doctors*, and in *New York Magazine's 2008 Best Doctors*.

Colleagues from 6HN refer to Dr. Diuguid as a “very gifted physician deeply interested in providing compassionate, state-of-the-art care to patients and families.” Colleagues applaud his contributions to several important committees such as the Chemotherapy Safety Steering Committee, noting “Dr. Diuguid’s insight has been essential to the safe and successful implementation of many new patient safety and quality improvement initiatives...he lends his full support and often functions as a liaison to the rest of the Medical staff.” A “champion of collaborative practice excellence,” Dr. Diuguid provides inservices illuminating the administration of blood products and the management of patients with sickle cell anemia and other disorders. He “puts extraordinary time and effort into his teaching with the hope that medical students and team colleagues will not only advance the science, but will also be inspired to give back in turn and continue to enrich the NYP legacy of innovation and quality care.”

It has been said that the greatest gift you can give another is the purity of your attention. Colleagues say, “Dr. Diuguid listens with his mind and heart, and through his clinical excellence, dedication and commitment to education, reinforces the notion that few things are impossible to those who possess vision, diligence and skill.”

## ATTENDING PHYSICIAN AWARD



### JESSIE WILT, MD DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE



Dr. Jessie Swain Wilt is an Assistant Attending Physician at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center. She is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Dr. Wilt is the Associate Program Director of Fellowships for the Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine. She serves as the Associate Medical Director of the Adult Lung Transplant Program. Her research interests are lung transplantation, immunosuppression in lung transplantation and gene expression microarrays in lung rejection. Dr. Wilt is board certified in Internal Medicine and Pulmonary Medicine. She is a graduate of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Honoring her excellence as a medical student, Dr. Wilt was awarded the *Janet M. Glasgow Memorial Achievement Citation* from the American Medical Women's Association. Dr. Wilt completed her Medical Internship and Residency at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center. During her Residency, Dr. Wilt received the prestigious *Arnold P. Gold Outstanding Teaching Resident Award*. She served as the Chief Medical Resident/Instructor of Clinical Medicine in the Department of Medicine, and continued her training as a Clinical Fellow in the Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine. Dr. Wilt is a respected member of the American Thoracic Society, the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation, the American College of Chest Physicians and the American Society of Transplantation. She has authored and co-authored numerous articles and abstracts contributing to the knowledge of respiratory and critical care medicine and lung transplantation.

As part of the Relationship-Based Care Initiative, Dr. Wilt serves as a physician leader for 7HS and the GI Endoscopy and Bronchoscopy Suite. Colleagues say that Dr. Wilt has "introduced and implemented several creative ideas to improve safety, efficiency, patient comfort and team communication." One example is "the playing of calming, therapeutic music to relieve patient anxiety during the bronchoscopy procedure." Dr. Wilt "encourages educational exchanges with staff and feels these interactions are mutually beneficial and enriching." Her focus is on collecting as much pertinent information about the patient as possible from the unique and important perspectives of team members. She "encourages critical thinking by posing questions and explicating the rationale for an intervention or specific course of management." Several colleagues highlighted Dr. Wilt's cooperative teamwork, evidenced by her willingness to "pitch-in" and assist with tasks to facilitate "turnaround time" and procedure efficiency. In spite of a busy and demanding schedule, Dr. Wilt participates in donor and recipient group meetings, and attends patient birthday parties and other "spirit-reinforcing events." Colleagues commend her commitment to patients and staff that reaches beyond what is expected. "With all that she has on her plate, she still found time to visit and brighten the spirits of a colleague who was hospitalized in New Jersey." It is "inspiring to see a physician who takes the time to get to know her patients, families and co-workers, making deeply meaningful connections."

Dr. Wilt "understands and appreciates the enormity of the battle that lung transplant and severely ill pulmonary patients wage for a breath of life." On their shared journey, she is "a wellspring of clinical knowledge, compassion and dedication to quality care."

## PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD 2009 NOMINEES

### HOUSE STAFF AWARD

Gina Badalato, MD  
**Brian Levine, MD\***  
**Lisa Marie Ruppert, MD\***  
Corinn Van Beek, MD

### ATTENDING PHYSICIAN AWARD

**Michael Argenziano, MD\***  
Ketan Badani, MD  
**Daniel Crossman, MD\***  
**David Diuguid, MD\***  
Alexander Khandji, MD  
William Noah Levine, MD  
Jai Rhadakrishnan, MD  
**Jessie Wilt, MD\***

\*award recipient

## PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD FORMER RECIPIENTS

### 2008

Stan D. Arkow, MD  
John A. Chabot, MD, FACS  
Dennis L. Fowler, MD, MPH  
Adrian Gonzalez, MD  
Benjamin Lebwohl, MD  
Mark A. Vitale, MD, MPH

### 2007

Wallace A. Carter, Jr., MD  
Anita Darmanian, MD  
Joseph DiNorcia, MD  
Andrew Eisenberger, MD  
Laura Lennihan, MD  
Richard L. Whelan, MD

### 2006

Spencer E. Amory, MD  
Matthew N. Bartels, MD, MPH  
Monica Bhatia, MD  
Peter W. Greenwald, MD  
Jonathan H. Lee, MD  
Michael S. Smith, MD, MBA

### 2005

Reuben J. Garcia-  
Carrasquillo, MD  
Brian D. Cohen, MD  
Jordan C. Foster, MD  
Richard A. Polin, MD  
Eileen M. Rattigan, MD  
Warren Widmann, MD

### 2004

James Giglio, MD  
Frederick Greenfield, MD  
Joshua Holden, MD  
Desmond Jordan, MD  
Paul Lee, MD  
Charles Lightdale, MD  
Sean Mazer, MD  
Ramnik Singh, MD

### 2003

Amy Abbot, MD  
Shilpi Epstein, MD  
Kenneth A. Forde, MD  
Gwen Nichols, MD  
Kenneth M. Prager, MD  
Jay B. Shah, MD

### 2002

Jonathan Michael Chen, MD  
Arthur Donald Finck, MD  
Charles Gray Murphy, MD  
Akiko Omura, MD  
Joseph Tenenbaum, MD  
Joshua L. Weintraub, MD

### 2001

Nabil Husami, MD  
Grace Soo Jung Hyun, MD  
LeRoy E. Rabbani, MD  
Michael Rosenbaum, MD  
Arie Szatkowski, MD  
Mary Zupanc, MD

### 2000

Tricia Brentjens, MD  
Robert Dettmer, MD  
Charles Schleien, MD  
Andrew Stewart, MD  
Anthony Valeri, MD  
Jen-Tien Wung, MD

## **A SPECIAL “THANK YOU”**

to the colleagues who submit nominations...

The medical staff of Columbia University Medical Center is one of the finest in the world. It is challenging to select candidates for nomination when so many physicians pursue excellence as a matter of course. It is even more difficult to select a handful of award recipients each year, when each nominee is so exceptionally gifted.

The Department of Nursing wishes to express our appreciation to the colleagues who participate in the nomination process. We appreciate the time and thought that is required to complete the forms and recommendations. We regret that we are not able to present all of the thorough, incisive comments and poignant observations that are received in their entirety. The descriptive comments in this program reflect only a small portion, or summary of the essence of the rich content that has been provided by nominators, and considered by the selection committee.

When this Awards program first began in 2000, we expected nominations to come predominantly from nurses. While this is the case, an outpouring of support and recognition has come from colleagues representing many other disciplines in the Medical Center.

We wish to express our appreciation to the nursing staff and to all of our colleagues from collaborative disciplines who have embraced this program and utilize this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of CUMC physicians.

With gratitude, we hope you will continue to submit nominations and participate in this Physician of the Year Awards program.

**“Each nominee is  
so exceptionally gifted.  
To be nominated  
is an extraordinary honor.”**

**The Columbia University Medical Center  
Department of Nursing  
gratefully acknowledges  
Wilhelmina Manzano, MA, RN, NEA-BC  
and  
Georgia J. Persky, RN, BSN, MBA  
for making this presentation possible.**



**┌ New York-Presbyterian Hospital  
└ Columbia University Medical Center**