ABOUT THE ELLIOT STONE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH DATA LEADERSHIP

Since 1990, NAHDO has presented the NAHDO Award of Excellence in Health Leadership to an individual who represents the highest ideals in data collection, analysis, or outcomes measurement and whose creative efforts have made outstanding contributions to improvements in the collection, application, and/or dissemination of health data. Until his passing in 2006, Elliot Stone helped NAHDO select awardees who made significant contributions to the health information field and who exhibited characteristics of quality, excellence, and passion in their work---characteristics that Elliot himself embodied.

In 2006, following Elliot Stone’s untimely passing, the NAHDO Board renamed its annual award, the “Elliot Stone Award of Excellence in Health Data Leadership”, in honor of Elliot and in acknowledgement of his generosity, care, and diligence to the field and to his colleagues. Elliot set the highest standards for his own performance and for others to follow. At NAHDO’s 20th Anniversary Meeting in Washington, D.C., the first Elliot Stone Award of Excellence was presented posthumously by NAHDO to Elliot’s wife and sons.
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HISTORY

NAHDO's first awardee was Dr. John E. Wennberg of the Center for Evaluative Clinical Sciences at Dartmouth Medical School. He is credited for creating the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care, a collection of maps illustrating the variations of medical care in this country. For 20 years, Wennberg and his colleagues have built a large database of health care availability, use and outcomes in nearly 4,000 distinct geographic areas across the country. Dr. Wennberg's early work on small area analysis was based on statewide hospital discharge data in Vermont.

1991 - William Roper, MD, MPH
Dr. Roper was appointed as the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1990. CDC is the lead agency of the U.S. Public Health Service that is responsible for promoting health and preventing disease, injury and premature death. Dr. Roper published in the New England Journal of Medicine on November 3, 1988 the article, "Effectiveness of Healthcare" where he demonstrated the science of health care evaluation could be used to inform clinical decision making. From 1986-1989, Dr. Roper served as Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) in the Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Roper has also served as Deputy Assistant to the President for domestic policy and director of the White House Office of Policy Development since February 1989. He has also been a Special Assistant to the President for Health Policy from 1983-1989.

1992 - Robert Fetter, PhD & John D. Thompson, MS
Fetter and Thompson of Yale University developed the DRG (Diagnosis-Related Group) system, and conducted considerable research on the use of diagnosis based clinical and financial information systems in the design of reimbursement, management, planning and quality evaluation in hospitals. The DRGs are a patient classification scheme which provide a means of relating the type of patient a hospital treats to the costs incurred by the hospital, and provides a framework for Medicare's hospital reimbursement system. Since its development both payers and institutions have become accustomed to using DRGs to measure utilization and allocate resources. DRGs provide a convenient, standardized means for categorizing thousands of diagnoses and treatments to evaluate inpatient hospital care.

1993 - Kerr White, MD
Dr. White is an internationally known pioneer in the fields of primary medical care and health services research who has been a leader in health care research for fifty years. White is a former Deputy Director for Health Sciences of the Rockefeller Foundation. While at the University of North Carolina, White introduced the term, "primary medical care" and conducted a number of early studies in the field that now is defined as "health services research." In 1961, he published a groundbreaking critique of the health care system, arguing that medicine should be practiced as a social science as well as a study of disease. The article, entitled "The Ecology of Medical Care," was published in The New England Journal of Medicine and subsequently brought Dr. White worldwide recognition as a cutting-edge health care researcher and reformer. He was instrumental in starting the National Center for Health Statistics. Also, he helped create the National Center for Health Services Research which today is the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

1994 - Dorothy Rice, DSc
Dr. Rice is a Professor at University of California, San Francisco and former director of the National Center for Health Statistics. She achieved national and international distinction during her career based on her extensive research, scholarly publication and leadership roles at the Social Security Administration and the National Center for Health Statistics. Rice's 1965 report on the "Economic Costs of Cardiovascular Diseases and Cancer" was one of the first studies establishing the relationship between health and economic costs of disease. Her work on the "Costs of Injury in the United States" in 1989 provided further insights into the impact of behavior on costs. In the 1980s, her work for the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention on the costs of AIDS delineated the economic significance of this disease.

1995 - Willis Goldbeck
Mr. Goldbeck is the founder and former President of the Washington Business Group on Health and founder of National Association of Health Data Organizations (NAHDO). He provided the vision for the NAHDO and was instrumental in developing a link with health data to the business community. He provided personal guidance, substantial time and resources to ensure that NAHDO was successful.
1996 - Bruce Vladeck, PhD
Dr. Vladeck is the Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, which is the federal agency that directs the Medicare and Medicaid programs and is a major health care payer of the medical bills of 67 million elderly, disabled and low-income Americans. Vladeck also serves as a key health policy advisor to the Health and Human Services secretary and other top administration officials. Previously, he was President of the United Hospital Fund of New York, a health services research and philanthropic organization.

1997 - Ernest Sessa
Mr. Sessa is former Director of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4). Under his leadership, the Council has become one of the nation's most aggressive and innovative proponents of the public dissemination of health data. The Council is best known for its "Guide to Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery" with risk-adjusted mortality rates for cardiac surgeons, hospitals and health Plans.

2000 - Senators Kassebaum and Kennedy
President Clinton signed into law the Kassebaum-Kennedy legislation now known as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 on August 21, 1996. In addition to prohibiting insurance companies from denying health insurance because of pre-existing conditions and addressing issues of fraud, waste and abuse in the health insurance industry, the legislation contains a section on administrative simplification.

Senators Kassebaum and Kennedy are being honored for their bipartisan support of the Health Insurance and Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996. The passage of this bill has revolutionized and transformed the collection, transmission and protection of health information through the standardization and security of health data formats. The movement toward electronic transmission of health information will have an enormous impact on the efficiency, effectiveness and safety of the healthcare industry to provide quality care.

2001 – Dr Louis Sullivan
In 1991, Dr. Sullivan convened a forum to address health care administrative costs. This forum established the basis for understanding the critical role of electronic data interchange (EDI) in the health care industry and paved the way for national standards development and the Health Insurance Accountability and Portability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

Dr. Sullivan was instrumental in influencing the first Bush Administration and a members of Congress, of the critical role that EDI must play in the nation's health care system. His leadership spawned collaboration across competitors and sectors and led to core ANSI ASC X12 transaction standards, private sector development of EDI implementation guides, development of national standardized institutional and professional data sets, and the enactment of HIPAA which establishes a national framework for standardization and electronic data interchange industry wide.

2004 – Robert Davis
Robert Davis, the former director of the New York State discharge data system, Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS) and continuous contributor/liaison/chair/consultant in numerous data collection systems and groups was awarded the NAHDO Award of Excellence in Health Data Leadership this year for his constant promotion and instrumental development in all areas of health data collection and dissemination. Mr. Davis was the key to the development of the electronic format for the Universal Data Set Specifications and has served as system designer for a standards-based collection of emergency room data from NYS hospitals. He has served as an advocate for the use of national data standards for payers, providers, and vendors and to make public health data collection systems compatible with federal mandates, such as the HIPAA legislation. Mr. Davis is an integral contributor to the quality we now experience in health data.

The NAHDO Award of Excellence name was officially changed to the Elliot Stone Award of Excellence in Health Data Leadership in honor of Elliot M. Stone, a colleague, advisor, outstanding contributor to the field of public health, and dedicated organizational leader and founder. To honor his distinguished career, Mr. Stone was awarded the first Elliot Stone Award of Excellence post-humously. Mr. Stone was the first and only Executive Director and CEO or the Massachusetts Health Data Consortium from the time it was founded in 1978 to his passing on April 4, 2005. His life was dedicated to the organization and all of his accomplishments serve to highlight that one person’s devotion can, and has, made a difference. He set exceptionally high standards as past Chair of the NAHDO Award Nominating Committee the list of past awardees serves as evidence. It was a fitting tribute that NAHDO has chosen to rename it’s Award of Excellence in Health Data Leadership to the “Elliot Stone Award of Excellence in Health Data Leadership.” The award was accepted by Mr. Stone’s wife and family at NAHDO’s 20th Anniversary Meeting in Washington, D.C.

2006—David Nash, M.D.
The second Elliot Stone Award of Excellence in Health Data Leadership was presented to Dr. David Nash, recognizing his work over the past two decades as a pioneer in quality and outcomes measurement and a national leader who met Elliot’s professional standards of quality, excellence, and passion. Dr. Nash is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Health
Policy at Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and is nationally and internationally recognized for his leadership and accomplishments in outcomes management, medical education, and quality improvement. Dr. Nash is dedicated to connecting research and our public reporting initiatives to clinical practice in a way that makes sense to clinicians and patients. He has been named by Modern Healthcare to the top 100 most powerful persons in healthcare list and he holds numerous appointments with national entities that shape quality measurement and improvement policy. For eight years, Dr. Nash has chaired the Technical Advisory Group of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4), contributing to PHC4’s national recognition as a leading state health data agency with landmark reports on outcomes and healthcare-acquired infections.

2007——David Carlisle, M.D., Ph.D.
The third Elliot M. Stone Award of Excellence in Health Data Leadership was presented to Dr. David Carlisle in 2007, honoring a career of service dedicated to health policy and research. Dr. Carlisle was appointed the Director of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) in 2000. Under Dr. Carlisle’s leadership, OSHPD continues to be at the forefront in the collection and use of health data to measure outcomes, in evaluating health policy, monitoring hospital and nursing home financial and utilization trends, informing workforce and medical education policy, rural health planning, and regulating the safety of hospital and other facilities in California. Dr. Carlisle is a leader in research in the areas of access to care, quality of care, disparities, and medical education, particularly as they pertain to vulnerable populations. As one of NAHDO’s founding organizations, OSHPD and Dr. Carlisle have been instrumental in establishing and sustaining a national association dedicated to improving health care quality, access, and cost through the public availability of facility utilization and quality information.

2008——Michael Pine, M.D., M.B.A.
The fourth Elliot M. Stone Award of Excellence in Health Data Leadership was present to Dr. Michael Pine in 2008, recognizing and honoring a career of service dedicated to advancing the science of measurement and applied health services research using health care data. Since 1988, Dr. Pine has assisted scores of hospitals, clinicians, and others to analyze and evaluate data on clinical quality and health care deliver and works with researchers and clinicians to apply the findings of the research to make informed decisions and improve care. He is the author of numerous original scientific studies, chapters, and articles ranging from basic science, clinical medicine, medical decision making, and quality monitoring and evaluation and is a nationally recognized expert in designing and applying specific methodologies for improving the quality and cost-effectiveness of health care services. Dr. Pine has been on the medical faculties of major academic medical centers, including Harvard, the University of California at Irvine, the University of Cincinnati, and the University of Chicago and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Cardiology. He is a graduate of Harvard Medical School and the University of Cincinnati School of Business. His work has been dedicated to improving quality of care for patients, and to transforming the US healthcare system.

2009——Arnold Milstein, M.D.
The fifth Elliot M. Stone Award of Excellence in Health Data Leadership was presented to Dr. Arnold Milstein in 2009, acknowledging a true ‘pioneer’ in health care accountability and transparency, through his vision of, and long –term advocacy for value based purchasing. Dr. Milstein is the Medical Director of the Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH) and the Chief Physician at Mercer Health & Benefits. His work and publications focus on health care purchasing strategy, the psychology of clinical performance improvement, and clinical innovations that reduce total health care spending and improve quality. He co-founded both the Leapfrog Group and the Consumer-Purchaser Disclosure Project. He heads performance measurement activities for both initiatives and is a Congressional MedPAC Commissioner. The New England Journal of Medicine’s series on employer sponsored health insurance described him as a “pioneer” in efforts to advance quality of care. Citing his nationally distinguished innovation in health care cost reduction and quality gains, he was selected for the highest individual award of the National Business Group on Health (NBGH), and of the American College of Medical Quality. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and is a faculty member at UCSF’s Institute for Health Policy Studies. He was educated at Harvard (BA-Economics), Tufts (MD) and (UC-Berkeley MPH-Health Services Evaluation and Planning).

2010——Carolyn M. Clancy, MD
The sixth Elliot M. Stone Award of Excellence in Health Data Leadership was presented to Dr. Carolyn M. Clancy in 2010, to honor a career of service to health services research and the use of clinical data to improve quality of care. Dr. Clancy is the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and has held this position under two Presidents since February 2003. AHRQ’s mission is to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of healthcare for all Americans, with a staff of about 300 and a 2010 budget of $372 million. Very recently, AHRQ announced the award of $473 million in grants and contracts to support projects that will help people make health care decisions based on the best evidence of effectiveness. This funding was under the Recovery Act. Dr. Clancy’s leadership and vision have focused AHRQ’s research initiatives during the past few years on comparative effectiveness research, health information technology, patient safety, prevention and care management, and value research. She has directed the establishment of evidence-based practice centers to review scientific literature on clinical, behavioral, organizing, and financing topics, and to produce evidence reports and technology assessments. She also launched the first annual report to Congress on healthcare disparities and healthcare quality.