

# 2020-21 ACMSF award winners

## NANCY J. KENNEDY

The annual Allegheny County Medical Society Foundation (ACMSF) awards recognize outstanding efforts by physicians, health care professionals and others who have significantly advanced patient care, contributed to improving the health of the community, served the medical profession, provided exceptional leadership, or enhanced the quality of patient care and safety. Due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, ACMSF was unable to present these awards in 2020, so this year we will have a double celebration. The 2020 and 2021 award recipients will be honored at the first ACMSF Virtual Gala Thursday, October 7, 2021. We hope that you will join us electronically, from the comfort of your home, as we pay tribute to these highly deserving award recipients.

*The following are the 2020 ACMSF award recipients:*

### Ralph C. Wilde Leadership Award

Brad W. Butcher, MD, Fellow-elect, ACCM, is the 2020 recipient of the Ralph C. Wilde Leadership Award, which recognizes a physician who demonstrates exceptional skill in clinical care of patients and dedication to the ideals of the medical



**Dr. Butcher**

profession as a teacher or profession leader. It is presented to a physician who exemplifies the personal and professional characteristics – physician, teacher, leader and human being – of the late Ralph C. Wilde. This award is considered the most prestigious of the ACMS awards. Ralph C. Wilde was the chief of general surgery at Allegheny General Hospital and was serving as president of the Pennsylvania Medical Society at the time of his death from leukemia in 1974.

Dr. Butcher is the co-director of the medical-surgical intensive care unit at UPMC Mercy Hospital and the director of the Critical Illness Recovery Center, which he created in 2016. The Critical Illness Recovery Center (CIRC) is a follow-up program that is designed to serve patients who have spent a prolonged time in the ICU receiving treatment for life-threatening conditions. “These patients have survived, but their recovery can be complicated by a constellation of disabilities – physical, psychiatric, cognitive and social – which impair quality of life for them and their families,” Dr. Butcher said. “They often experience depression, anxiety and PTSD. An ICU admission is a profound, life-altering experience, and these patients have post-ICU syndrome; they recover and leave the ICU to be cared for by their PCPs and specialists who may not be fully aware of the impact of the ICU experience.”

Dr. Butcher recognized the extreme vulnerability of these patients and

their need for comprehensive, holistic rehabilitative services. Working with a multidisciplinary team who shared his vision and his passion for helping these fragile survivors, Dr. Butcher developed a program to maximize their recovery from post-ICU syndrome. The program has three components: a follow-up clinic; an online support group; and an ICU journal program, in which family members and caregivers record meaningful interactions which the patient may be unable to recollect on their own. The CIRC program is offered at all UPMC hospitals. Dr. Butcher is the recipient of the 2020 ICU Heroes Award, given by the Society of Critical Care Medicine.

Dr. Butcher earned a BA in biochemistry at Harvard in 2001 and his medical degree at Duke University in 2006. He completed a residency in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital in 2009, followed by fellowships in hospital medicine, nephrology and critical care medicine at the University of California San Francisco, finishing in 2013. His clinical interests include post-ICU care of patients, peer support for critically ill survivors and their families, acute renal injury, and patient safety and medical error. He is an associate professor of Critical Care Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He lives on Mt. Washington and enjoys classical music and opera; in his leisure time, he loves to travel and has visited all 50 states and 53 countries. Tammy Eaton, MSN, RN, nominated Dr. Butcher for this award.

## Benjamin Rush Community Organization Award

Brother's Brother Foundation is the recipient of the Benjamin Rush Community Organization Award for 2020. Ozzy Samad, president, will accept the award on behalf of the organization. This award recognizes a community institution or organization that is successfully addressing a public health issue. Benjamin Rush (1745-1813) was a physician and one of the most prolific medical professors of his time. He is credited with curing the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793. He was also a social activist, an advocate for the abolition of slavery, for scientific education for the masses, including women, and for public clinics to treat the poor. Because of his devotion to public health, the Benjamin Rush Community Organization Award was established in 1947 and is given each year to a community organization in appreciation of outstanding contributions to public health.

Brother's Brother Foundation has a long, noble history and a mission to promote international health and education through the efficient and effective distribution of donated medical, educational, agricultural, and other resources. Founded in 1958 by anesthesiologist Robert Hingson, MD, and originally called the Brother's Keeper Foundation, Brother's Brother Foundation has a unique origin. Dr. Hingson was an innovator who developed a new method to conduct needle-less immunizations in underserved countries using a "jet injector" device. This instrument enabled mass inoculation against diseases such as smallpox, polio,



tetanus and others. It became known as "the peace gun" and it had the capacity to treat 1,000 persons per hour with multiple vaccines. Dr. Hingson recruited his physician colleagues to accompany him across the globe to immunize millions of people in developing countries, and that was the beginning of the Brother's Brother Foundation. From 1958 to 1980, the Foundation immunized 10 million people.

According to Keith T. Kanel, MD, who nominated Brother's Brother for the award, "Over the years, the organization has evolved into a massive logistics initiative working in worldwide health, disaster relief, education, and infrastructure development, and as a coordinator of medical missions. In its 60 years of existence, Brother's Brother has provided 149 countries with 107,000 tons of medical supplies, textbooks, seeds, and food, touching the lives of tens of millions of individuals in need. Brother's Brother Foundation was one of the first international organizations to step up and assist China in its efforts to contain the COVID-19 virus, sending 29 palettes of materials – including 450,000 protective surgical masks – in February 2020. The organization rallied resources from within Pittsburgh, including UPMC, AHN, and the offices of Mayor Bill Peduto and County Executive Rich Fitzgerald."

The Brother's Brother Foundation was eventually managed by Luke Hingson, Dr. Hingson's son, who continued and expanded his father's

mission. The organization remains a dynamic international humanitarian organization, based in Pittsburgh, with a wide scope of services including healthcare, education and nutrition. In 2021, Brother's Brother Foundation is supporting the millions who are suffering from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, hurricanes and other disasters.

## John G. Krah Executive Leadership Award

Mark DeRubeis, MBA, chief executive officer of Premier Medical Associates, is the 2020 recipient of the John G. Krah Executive Leadership Award. This award,



**Mr. DeRubeis**

established by the ACMS Foundation in 2014, recognizes an individual who has demonstrated exemplary leadership and advocacy for physicians. Over a sustained time, the recipient shall have displayed administrative guidance to physicians to support their ability to improve the lives and health of the people of our community.

Mr. DeRubeis has been with Premier Medical Associates since 2001, when he joined the organization as chief operating officer. Francis R. Colangelo, MD, who nominated Mr. DeRubeis for this award, said that he immediately demonstrated an exceptional ability to listen to physicians and understand their concerns. "Mark is an outstanding leader and change agent who became CEO in 2004 and guided PMA through many transitions, including

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its reorganization as a separate, independent entity. Mark led a lean administrative team that focused on making PMA a financially sustainable and eventually profitable organization. He developed what became known as the 'Premier culture' – accountable and excellent patient care at a lower cost than that of competitors. Under his direction, PMA developed a reputation for delivering the highest quality and most cost-effective care in the region."

With insightful vision, Mr. DeRubeis' and PMA's physician leaders championed the cause of moving the practice to a chronic care-focused, team-based, proactive model of care which benefited physicians as well as their patients with conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. By 2011, PMA had grown to 67 providers in 10 specialties, an expansion that led to an affiliation with Highmark Health; even more rapid growth ensued, with further improvement and expansion of clinical services.

PMA is a high-performing organization that also is known as an open, happy workplace where satisfied, motivated staff members deliver the highest quality care. For eight years, PMA has been recognized as one of Pittsburgh's Top Workplaces; employees frequently reference Mr. DeRubeis in survey results, citing his integrity, genuine concern and advocacy for staff and physicians. PMA has received numerous regional and national honors for providing high quality, high value care, improving the patient experience and outcomes, and continuously innovating. Today, PMA has 100 providers, 24 medical specialty services and 400 employees

working in 10 locations. It is the largest multispecialty practice in the Greater Pittsburgh area.

Mr. DeRubeis is a native of Pittsburgh who received his Bachelor of Arts in Business and his MBA from Duquesne University. He is co-chair for the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative and serves on the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

## Benjamin Rush Individual Award

Maren L. Cooke, PhD, is the recipient of the Benjamin Rush Individual Award, which recognizes a non-physician who is making a positive impact on community health. Dr. Cooke is a scientist, educator, activist, master gardener, wife, mother, artist and musician. "Maren is living proof that one individual can have a profound and even transformative effect on others," said Edward Wrenn, MD, who nominated her for the award. "Maren is an inspiration and role model. She has taught me that if you see something that's not right, that is inconsistent with your values, you must act on it."

Dr. Cooke has a BS in physics and astronomy, (and most of a BA in studio arts) from the University of Rochester, and a PhD in planetary science from Cornell University. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship at MIT in science education and formerly worked for NASA. She moved to Pittsburgh in 2000 and quickly became involved in the Group Against Smog and Pollution, or GASP, a non-profit



Dr. Cooke

citizens group founded in 1969 to serve Western Pennsylvania as a clean air watchdog, litigator, policymaker and education resource. She helps lead 350 Pittsburgh, Pittsburghers Against Single-Use Plastic and ReImagine Food System. Dr. Cooke co-founded a school garden and school outreach program with Frick Environmental Center and serves as an urban ecosteward with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, and as a Tree Tender with TreePittsburgh. She organizes the Sustainability Salon, a monthly environmental education forum and community gathering.

Environmental community engagement is her passion, and she has taught physics, astronomy, gardening and environmental science to all ages in a wide variety of settings: schools, parks, community centers and front yards. A committed lifelong environmentalist, she has been a critical voice on advisory committees and in public testimony across a broad range of issues, including climate change, air quality, plastics, food and justice. In the 1970s, Dr. Cooke was fighting for public health and a livable future with Citizens for Safe Power Transmission in the Hudson River Valley; at present, she is coordinating protests against the looming petrochemical industrial base in the Ohio River Valley and teaching people to grow their own food.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is not merely an old saying, Dr. Cooke said. "Just as the cheapest and cleanest energy is energy that we don't have to produce because of conservation and efficiency, the best healthcare is avoiding illness in the first place."

Many human health issues are linked to environmental exposures – cancer, asthma, heart disease, COPD, learning and behavioral problems. Physicians have a vital role to play – not only diagnosing and treating patients, but also educating them and advocating for a healthier environment.”

Dr. Cooke operates an urban microfarm, supplying organic produce to food pantries and a local restaurant. She has rebuilt her family’s home as a demonstration site for green building, green living and creative design. Also trained as an artist, she has worked in pen and ink, painting, printmaking, book design, calligraphy and photography. She and her spouse, Neil Donahue, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University, live in Squirrel Hill and have two children.

## **Richard E. Deitrick Humanity in Medicine Award**

Kurt R. Weiss, MD, is the recipient of the 2020 Richard E. Deitrick Humanity in Medicine Award.

This award honors a physician who has improved the lives of patients by caring for them with integrity, honesty and respect for their human dignity, and has served as a role model for other physicians. Dr. Weiss was nominated by Mark Goodman, MD. “Kurt is a cancer survivor who has dedicated his career to the treatment of orthopedic cancer patients,” Dr. Goodman said. “He has empathy beyond what most doctors can muster. He is available to his patients and their families beyond surgical care. He helped to found



**Dr. Weiss**

Pittsburgh Cure Sarcoma, a 501c3 that raises money for sarcoma research. He himself is a well-respected sarcoma researcher in his own right. He also started the Kurt Weiss/seven eleven scholarship for post Make a Wish participants.” Pittsburgh Cure Sarcoma raises awareness of childhood and adult sarcoma and funds sarcoma research in Pittsburgh and beyond.

Dr. Weiss began his affiliation with the UPMC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in 1994 when he performed basic science research in the Ferguson Laboratory as an undergraduate student. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1997. During medical school at Jefferson Medical College, he performed one year of bone cancer research at the National Cancer Institute as part of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute/ National Institutes of Health Research Scholars Program. He completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery at UPMC, and his fellowship in musculoskeletal oncology at the University of Toronto. Dr. Weiss was recruited back to his hometown of Pittsburgh in 2010, and established the Department’s Musculoskeletal Oncology Laboratory. Dr. Weiss specializes in the care of adults and children with musculoskeletal tumors.

He was awarded a K08 Career Development Award by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to build a sarcoma research program at UPMC, and an R21 award by the NCI to study sarcoma-associated cachexia. He is an author on more than 50 peer-reviewed manuscripts in the clinical and basic scientific literature, as well as numerous book chapters. He reviews for many journals and has served as

a deputy editor for the Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Dr. Weiss has been honored by the UPMC Hillman Cancer Institute, the Sarcoma Foundation of America, the V Foundation, North Hills High School, Pittsburgh Magazine, and the Pittsburgh Business Times. He is a founding committee member of Pittsburgh Cure Sarcoma and the Pittsburgh Sarcoma Research Collaborative. He is an associate professor and serves as the vice chair for Translational Research at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

## **Nathaniel Bedford Primary Care Physician Award**

Jonathon Weinkle, MD, FAAP, is the recipient of the 2020 Nathaniel Bedford Primary Care Physician Award, given by the Allegheny County Medical Society



**Dr. Weinkle**

since 1975 to honor a primary care physician who has demonstrated long-term dedication to the physical and psychological well-being of his or her patients. Nathaniel Bedford is believed to be Pittsburgh’s first practicing physician; he located to the region in 1784 and was a founder of the Pittsburgh Academy which eventually became the University of Pittsburgh. “Dr. Weinkle is a general internist and pediatrician who has worked since 2008 as a primary care physician in the Squirrel Hill Health Clinic, where a large portion of his patient population are recent immigrants to

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Pittsburgh,” said Mark Goodman, MD, who nominated Dr. Weinkle for this award. “He teaches courses in end-of-life care at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, as clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics, and serves as medical director of the Physician Assistant Studies Program at Chatham University.”

In 2018, Dr. Weinkle published a book, “Caring for People Not Patients: Creating Authentic Relationships in Modern Healthcare.” The book is based on his experiences building relationships with patients, with emphasis on the encounter between the one who seeks healing and the one who offers healing. The book is used to instruct medical students and other healthcare workers.

In addition to his work at Squirrel Hill Health Center, Dr. Weinkle serves as a medical advisor to the Closure project of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, a project intended to improve the quality of care and change the individual experience at end-of-life, and is engaged in other Foundation initiatives related to patient-provider communication, genetic screening, and vaccination. He is the founder of Healers Who Listen, a curriculum to train healthcare professionals to see, hear and help the person in front of them.

Driving all of these endeavors is a strong commitment to infusing his interactions with patients with the core values of his faith, beginning with the idea that both patient and provider are created in the Divine image and must act and be treated accordingly. Dr. Weinkle believes that the trust between

a doctor and patient is sacred, and that many policies and practices in the healthcare setting disrupt that trusting relationship. He encourages his fellow physicians to practice the art of healing, with “a call to physicians of all faiths or no faith to practice a medicine that is singularly devoted to the human being in need of healing.”

Dr. Weinkle received his BA and medical degrees at Pitt and completed the Medicine-Pediatrics residency program at UPMC Shadyside and Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. A lifelong Pittsburgher and longtime resident of Squirrel Hill, he is thrilled to be working in his home neighborhood.

## Physician Volunteer Award

Justin J. Vujevich, MD, FAAD, is the recipient of the 2020 Physician Volunteer Award, established in 2001 to recognize a physician for the donation of their time or talents for charitable, clinical, educational or community service activities, domestically or internationally. Dr. Vujevich is being recognized for his leadership and longstanding commitment to the Pittsburgh community and the field of dermatology. In 2003, Dr. Vujevich founded a dermatology clinic at the Birmingham Clinic in the South Side of Pittsburgh; the clinic offers free health care to homeless, uninsured and medically indigent individuals. “Since starting the clinic, Dr. Vujevich has helped with its organizational structure, including fundraising initiatives, and continues to volunteer seeing patients



**Dr. Vujevich**

and teaching UPMC medical students and residents,” said Christie Regula, MD, who nominated Dr. Vujevich for this award. “Since 2011, Dr. Vujevich has served as committee chairman for the Angel’s Fund, a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to children and families with exceptional medical needs. In partnership with Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, The Highmark Caring Place, and St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, The Angel’s Fund helps families with non-medical expenses associated with outpatient medical care.”

Dr. Vujevich is co-founder of the non-profit Sun Smart Pittsburgh. This 501(c) (3) organization was started in 2016 with the mission to promote sun protection and skin cancer awareness through the installation of public sunscreen dispensers in local parks. To date, 28 sunscreen dispensers have been installed in public parks, running trails, playgrounds, and tennis courts as well as at community events. Dr. Vujevich also is involved in volunteer activities through local and national societies. A former president of the Pennsylvania Academy of Dermatology, he continues to be involved in their mentorship program, furthering the education and professional development of dermatology residents and early-career dermatologists. Dr. Vujevich has impacted the community not only through his participation in volunteer activities but also by creating opportunities for others to serve.

Dr. Vujevich practices medical, surgical, cosmetic and pediatric dermatology at Vujevich Dermatology Associates with his father, Marion

M. Vujevich, MD. He is a fellow of the American College of Mohs dermatology, the surgical treatment of skin cancer, and is the chief of dermatology at Washington Health System. He earned his undergraduate and medical degrees at Northwestern University and completed a residency at UPMC as well as a fellowship in Mohs surgery at Texas Medical Center.

*The following are the 2021 ACMSF award recipients:*

## **Nathaniel Bedford Primary Care Award**

John T. Wisneski Jr., MD, is the 2021 recipient of The Nathaniel Bedford Primary Care Award, which recognizes a primary care physician for exemplary care of patients.



**Dr. Wisneski**

The Nathaniel Bedford Primary Care Physician Award, given by the Allegheny County Medical Society since 1975, honors a primary care physician who has demonstrated long-term dedication to the physical and psychological well-being of his or her patients. Nathaniel Bedford is believed to be Pittsburgh's first practicing physician; he located to the region in 1784 and was a founder of the Pittsburgh Academy which eventually became the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Wisneski has specialized in internal medicine and geriatrics throughout his 35-year career. His practice, Prime Care Medical Associates UPMC, is located in Aspinwall, Pa., near UPMC St. Margaret Hospital, where he serves

as director of medical services; chair, department of medicine; and chair, quality assurance/care management. Dr. Wisneski also is an associate clinical professor of medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He was nominated for the award by his colleague, Thaddeus Osial, MD, who said, "John is a long-term conscientious care provider who has been a vocal and reliable spokesperson for the patient. John believes in holding care providers to the highest standards of care. He has championed the cause of quality care in multiple positions."

Along with their clinical expertise and efficient care, the best primary care physicians offer their patients the safe haven of a trusting relationship. For Dr. Wisneski, trust is the essence of the doctor-patient relationship, and that trust is created when there is continuity of care. "Continuity of care is key," he said. "Having a PCP allows you to form a relationship. You get to know each other, which builds trust and leads to better medical care because we can catch health problems early, when they are more treatable."

As one of his patients said, "Dr. Wisneski is an excellent PCP who makes each patient feel special. He is kind, gentle, honest and a sympathetic listener. He is your partner and advocate. He personifies the very best qualities of the good doctor. When you leave his office, you feel better about yourself."

Dr. Wineski earns the trust of his patients by recognizing their humanity and treating the whole person. He offers them his own humanity: his personal warmth and compassion, the wisdom of his vast experience as a physician and reassurance that he

will help them maintain their health, support their healthy aging, guide them through the crisis of illness and chronic conditions, and guide them to a peaceful end of life.

Dr. Wisneski earned his undergraduate degree at Johns Hopkins University and earned his medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. He completed a residency in internal medicine at Presbyterian-University Hospital, now UPMC Presbyterian. He and his wife, Susan, live in Allison Park and have a son, Matthew.

## **Richard E. Deitrick Humanity in Medicine Award**

Terrence W. Starz, MD, is the recipient of the Richard E. Deitrick Humanity in Medicine Award, which honors a physician who has improved the lives of patients by caring for them with integrity, honesty, and respect for their human dignity, and is a role model for other physicians. The award was established in 2012.



**Dr. Starz**

Dr. Starz was nominated by three colleagues: E.J. Donnelly, MD, Edie Shapira, MD, and Mark Schmidhofer, MD. All three were residents on Dr. Starz's teaching service when he was a new attending at Montefiore Hospital in the early 80s. All three were inspired by his example, and all three chose him to be their personal and family physician. "Terry is a superb physician, powerful role model, teacher, researcher, colleague and community servant," Dr. Shapira said. "He excels

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in both rheumatology and general internal medicine, and always has time to thoughtfully and compassionately listen – at the bedside, in the office and on the phone. He is deeply grounded by both the current medical literature, by common sense rooted in years of practice and by enormous kindness.”

Now retired, Dr. Starz was affiliated with UPMC Shadyside, where he served as chair of the division of rheumatology. He also served as a clinical professor of Medicine and Occupational Therapy at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He has been a trustee of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and the Pittsburgh Regional Healthcare Initiative.

In addition to his clinical and interpersonal skills, Dr. Starz has published extensively. He has been honored with numerous awards for community service and has served on the boards of many medical professional groups. He was Allegheny County Medical Society president in 2006. Dr. Starz received the prestigious Pressman Award from the Pennsylvania chapter of the American College of Physicians in 2006. He is active with the local and national Arthritis Foundation and was honored by the local chapter as the AF National Health Care Professional of the Year in 2015. In 2018, he was named Volunteer of the Year by the Western PA Arthritis Foundation. He received the ACMS Frederick Jacob Award in 2012 for Outstanding Service.

Dr. Starz has championed many meaningful public health causes in Allegheny County. Most recently, due to his passion for the benefits of exercise

for older adults, he was instrumental in working with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation Senior Connections and Venture Outdoors in establishing the Fit with a Physician program. Many physicians have been inspired by his example and leadership.

A native Pittsburgher, Dr. Starz received a BA from Penn State and his medical degree from Thomas Jefferson University. He completed a residency in internal medicine in 1972 at UPMC Presbyterian and was chief resident in internal medicine in 1975. He went on to complete a fellowship in rheumatology in 1977. Dr. Starz lives in Squirrel Hill with his wife, Jody; they have two sons.

## Ralph C. Wilde Leadership Award

John S. Rozel, MD, MSc, associate professor of psychiatry, adjunct professor of law, and Medical Director of resolve Crisis Network, is the recipient of the Ralph C. Wilde Leadership Award for his outstanding contributions and leadership in the field of emergency mental health, both locally and nationally. Reshma Paranjpe, MD, who nominated Dr. Rozel, says that in the years since they attended medical school together at Brown University, her friend's compassion and dedication have only blossomed and grown.

The Ralph C. Wilde Award, established in 1975, is considered the most prestigious ACMS award. It is presented to a physician who exemplifies the personal

and professional characteristics – physician, teacher, leader and human being – of the late Ralph C. Wilde. It recognizes a physician who demonstrates exceptional skill in clinical care of patients and dedication to the ideals of the medical profession as a teacher or profession leader.

Dr. John “Jack” Rozel has been working in emergency mental health for more than 25 years and has been the medical director of the resolve Crisis Network since 2010. He completed his general psychiatry residency and child and forensic psychiatry fellowships at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC. He is president of the American Association for Emergency Psychiatry, a national organization dedicated to the improvement of compassionate, evidence-based care for people with psychiatric emergencies. Dr. Rozel has served as an incident commander for mass shootings and been involved in the behavioral health response to several mass casualty events. A major contributor to the National Council for Behavioral Health's 2019 report on Mass Violence, Dr. Rozel is working with a team to develop best practices for violence risk screening for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network and was appointed to the Pennsylvania Governor's Special Council on Gun Violence.

Dr. Rozel regularly provides training to medical students, residents and fellows at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; mentors graduate students in the MA Program in Bioethics; co-teaches the Mental Health Law course at the School of Law; and teaches regional law



Dr. Rozel

enforcement professionals through the Crisis Intervention Team training program. He teaches and consults regularly on the themes of emergency psychiatry, risk management, violence and firearms, and the interface of law and psychiatry. He is the creator of the Clinical Homicide and Aggression Management Practices for Inpatient, Outpatient and Nontraditional Settings (CHAMPIONS) training.

With mental health crises at an all-time high due to the pandemic, Dr. Rozel has mobilized resolve Crisis Network to provide both mobile and on-site crisis services. His leadership for the past ten years has made it possible for Allegheny County to be well-equipped to deal with the critical mental health needs of the epidemic.

Dr. Rozel earned a BA in biomedical ethics and his medical degree from Brown University; he has a master's degree in law from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He completed a general psychiatry residency plus child and forensic psychiatry residencies at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC.

## **Benjamin Rush Community Organization Award**

Women for a Healthy Environment (WHE) is the 2021 recipient of the Benjamin Rush Community Organization Award, which recognizes a company, institution, organization, or agency that is successfully addressing a community health issue.

In 2007, more than 2,000 local women showed up when the first Women's Health and The Environment conference, sponsored by The Heinz Endowments and Magee Women's



Hospital of UPMC, took place in Pittsburgh. The unexpectedly enthusiastic response stunned the conference planners, recalls Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis, executive director of WHE. "The conference was a gathering of scientists, government leaders and healthcare professionals who shared concerns about environmental exposures and women's health," she said. "No one was expecting such an overwhelming response. We knew something important was going on."

It was an auspicious beginning for WHE. The conference planners, a group of visionary women leaders including Teresa Heinz, created WHE as a non-profit in 2009. "We began as a network of women who care deeply about health and the environment," said Naccarati-Chapkis. "Our mission is to educate, involve and empower community members to act as change agents in their homes and communities, providing them with information about the relationship between the environment and health. People want to 'go green' and are eager for the knowledge and tools to reduce risks to themselves and their loved ones. They want healthy homes, schools and workplaces where environmental exposure to toxins is eliminated or minimized." As a result, WHE now works with schools and day care centers, civic organizations, health care professionals, and corporations.

Deborah Gentile, MD, nominated WHE for the award because she believes that this organization is the strongest regional advocate for the health of women, children and families in the community. "In recent years, WHE successfully led the advocacy efforts that resulted in significant public policy initiatives to tackle the issue of lead in our drinking water," Dr. Gentile said.

"Over the years, I have worked closely with WHE on their programs, including Healthy Homes, Healthy Schools, Healthy Early Learning Centers and Community Health, and they have done and continue to do an outstanding job educating parents, children, school and early learning personnel and health and community-based organizations about environmental risks to health and action steps they can take to mitigate those risks. Most importantly, they focus their programs to those living in underserved communities in a culturally sensitive and inclusive manner so that those residents can gain the knowledge and skills to advocate for the protection of their public health."

WHE educates individuals about environmental risks to human health, provides action steps communities can take to reduce those risks and advocates for solutions that better protect the region. WHE educates and empowers women to act as ambassadors about environmental risks so they can make healthy choices for themselves and their families and advocate for change for a better tomorrow for all.

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## Benjamin Rush Individual Award

Victoria S. Humphrey, MD, is the 2021 recipient of the Benjamin Rush Individual Award, which recognizes a person who is not a practicing healthcare professional but devotes time, skill or resources to helping others and contributes to the advancement of healthcare. Dr. Humphrey is a June 2021 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine who has recently begun a residency in internal medicine at the University of Miami JFK Medical Center. She then plans to move to Boston for the Harvard Combined Dermatology Program. Dr. Humphrey is passionate about her choice of medical specialty: "I love the mix of medicine, internal medicine and psychiatry that is dermatology. We see so much manifestation of systemic disease in dermatology. I am especially interested in skin of color dermatology because there are few dermatologists of color; it's the second least diverse medical specialty. I am an advocate for increased diversity in the field."

Advocacy is a way of life for the Tampa Bay native, who founded a school snack program in 2014 after learning about the gap in education quality based on zip codes in Florida. She understood that food insecurity put children at a great disadvantage, academically and developmentally, and she was moved to act. Apples 4 Education was the result: It's a program that distributes healthy



**Dr. Humphrey**

breakfasts to children attending underfunded schools. Seven years later, the program is still going strong. "Victoria's passion is making certain that everyone is afforded an equal opportunity," said her friend, Ronald Henri, who nominated her for the award. "When she came to Pittsburgh for medical school, she and a classmate created a similar program called Snacks for STEM. They would go into classrooms to discuss STEM careers and pass out healthy snacks. She believes that it's empowering for children to see people like herself who are striving to achieve their goals."

Pittsburgh was already a second home for Dr. Humphrey. "My mother was born here and lives here, as do many members of my family. I love this city," she said. After receiving a *B.S.* from the University of Miami in 2014, she took a few years off to work, travel and participate in pageant/scholarship competitions, including Miss Pennsylvania and Miss America. "Pageant competitions made it possible for me to save money for medical school and gain valuable life experience before starting medical school," she says. Being named the recipient of the Benjamin Rush Individual Award is an incredible honor, she says, and it inspires her to continue her commitment to helping others whenever she sees an unmet need.

## John G. Krah Executive Leadership Award

Freddie H. Fu, MD, is the 2021 recipient of the John G. Krah Executive Leadership Award. Dr. Fu is the David Silver Professor, Division of Sports Medicine, distinguished service

professor, and chair, department of orthopedic surgery, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; head team physician, department of athletics; professor of physical therapy, School of Health and Rehab Sciences; professor of health and physical activity, School of Education; and professor of mechanical engineering, Swanson School of Engineering, University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Fu was nominated for this award by Mark A. Goodman, MD, who credits Dr. Fu's superlative leadership as orthopedic department chair for advancing orthopedic surgery and transforming sports medicine in Pittsburgh. "Dr. Fu founded the department of sports medicine in 1986, and his leadership and clinical innovation have brought international attention to Pittsburgh," Dr. Goodman states. "His executive leadership has raised funds and awareness, producing the UPMC Sports Medicine facility and the Pitt/Steelers practice facility on the South Side. In addition, he has spearheaded the building of the Lemieux Sports Facility in Cranberry. Due to his pioneering leadership, Pittsburgh has become a world leader in sports medicine and concussion care."

In 2018, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the advancement of sports medicine, the sports medicine facility was renamed in his honor, becoming the Freddie Fu Sports Medicine Center of the UPMC Rooney Sports Complex. It is a state-of-the-art facility, on the cutting edge



**Dr. Fu**

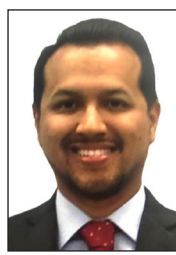
of sports medicine treatment and research.

Dr. Fu's research interests lie in clinical outcomes following sports-related injuries, as well as orthopedic bioengineering. He has pioneered numerous innovative arthroscopic surgical techniques to treat injuries to the knee and shoulder and has performed extensive knee joint research in biomechanics, in vivo kinematics, comparative anatomy, and stem cell and regenerative medicine involving the knee. He has published more than 600 peer-reviewed articles, 173 book chapters and 30 major textbooks on the management of sports injuries.

A 1974 graduate of Dartmouth University, Dr. Fu attended the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He completed his residency in general surgery and a fellowship in orthopedic surgery at UPMC.

## Physician Volunteer Award

Carlos M. Perez-Ruiz, MD, is the recipient of the Physician Volunteer Award, which was established in 2001 to recognize a physician for the donation of their time or talents for charitable, clinical, educational or community service activities,



**Dr. Perez-Ruiz**

domestically or internationally. Dr. Perez-Ruiz is currently completing an Interventional Pain Medicine fellowship at Allegheny Health Network.

Dr. Perez-Ruiz is a man who has one foot in his native Puerto Rico and one foot in his adopted home, Pittsburgh. The two locations were already linked in his life, long before he came to Pittsburgh to continue his medical education. One of his heroes is Roberto Clemente, a man who embodies the Puerto Rico-Pittsburgh connection. Clemente's legacy of helping and caring are alive and thriving in Dr. Perez-Ruiz.

As an anesthesiology resident at AGH, he became involved with Light of Life Rescue Mission, which has served those who are struggling with homelessness, poverty, hunger and addiction since 1952. In addition to his volunteer work and service as an officer at Light of Life, Dr. Perez-Ruiz has organized his colleagues at AGH to participate in the annual clothing drive. Following Hurricane Maria in 2017, Dr. Perez-Ruiz volunteered in the relief efforts in Puerto Rico, working in the field with teams of healthcare professionals to bring victims to the U.S. Navy ship Comfort. Back in Pittsburgh, he helped organize the distribution of donated supplies and food from the Pittsburgh Pirates and AGH.

Gilberto Ruiz, his grandfather, is the other hero who has inspired Dr. Perez-Ruiz. "My grandparents took care of me through my childhood while my parents worked during the day. My grandfather always gave back to the community sponsoring Little League and helping others. He is a Korean War Veteran that served in the U.S. Army. At the age of 43, he had an accidental spinal cord injury which left him quadriplegic. Unfortunately, I never saw him walk, but he took care of me and was an inspiration for me to study medicine. Due to his spinal cord injury, he had multiple chronic ailments which affected his quality of life. This brought in me a sense of commitment to help him and improve his health. Unfortunately, he passed away, but his exemplary commitment to family, the personal values he taught me, and the love for our country is something I have always cherished."

Born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, Dr. Perez-Ruiz attended undergraduate school and medical school at the University of Puerto Rico. He completed a residency in anesthesiology at AGH and served as chief resident-outreach. He is married to Greisy Tellez-Martinez.

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