



October 30, 2022

Dear Medical School Dean:

The Physician Professional Advisory Committee (PPAC) of the [United States Public Health Service \(USPHS\) Commissioned Corps](#) is proud to announce the 2023 Excellence in Public Health Award. The awards program recognizes medical students across the United States who advance public health and those who exemplify the USPHS Commissioned Corps' mission to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our Nation. Last year we were proud to partner with 110 medical schools, and we would like to invite your school to recognize an outstanding medical student who has positively impacted public health in their community.

Physicians in the USPHS Commissioned Corps have played a vital role in the health of our Nation for over 200 years. We serve in various capacities, including as 1) clinicians in agencies such as the Indian Health Service and Bureau of Prisons; 2) researchers at the National Institutes of Health; 3) scientists who evaluate the efficacy and safety of drugs and medical devices at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; 4) epidemiologists who conduct disease surveillance and outbreak investigations at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and 5) senior leaders in public health agencies throughout the government. USPHS Commissioned Corps officers have led responses to numerous national and international public health crises, including responses to the COVID-19 and monkeypox pandemics and the opioid crisis. This proud tradition of public service is further amplified through our willingness to deploy quickly to a wide variety of public health emergencies, including pandemics, outbreaks, and natural disasters, and in support of healthcare delivery in areas with limited access. For example, USPHS Commissioned Corps officers have served during the attacks of 9/11; the 2014 Ebola and 2016 Zika epidemics; and to natural disasters such as Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, and Ian.

A USPHS Commissioned Corps physician assigned as the point of contact for your area will be available to assist with your nomination and the award process should your school decide to participate. Attached to this letter is an information sheet that outlines the award process and a nomination form.

Identification and selection of the nominee is at the discretion of each medical school. The USPHS PPAC Awards Team will evaluate the completed nomination package to ensure selection criteria have been met. A PPAC representative will present school-level awards to all deserving nominees. In addition, the strongest overall nominee will receive national recognition. The team will arrange for an officer to present the award and provide brief remarks during an awards ceremony, either in person or virtually.

If you have any questions about the awards program, please contact your point of contact or one of the program co-chairs (CAPT Kimberly Smith at 240-402-4280 or [Kimberly.Smith@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Smith@fda.hhs.gov) or CDR Andrew Geller at 404-498-0639 or [ageller@cdc.gov](mailto:ageller@cdc.gov)). Thank you again for your help in identifying and recognizing medical students who are dedicated to improving public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua G. Schier".

CAPT Joshua Schier, MD, MPH

Chief Medical Officer, United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps



# United States Public Health Service Physician Professional Advisory Committee 2023 Excellence in Public Health Award

## *Information Sheet*

**DEADLINE: Friday, January 13, 2023**

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

Any medical student currently enrolled in an LCME-accredited U.S. medical school or COCA-accredited U.S. osteopathic medical school. The student does not have to be in the graduation class of 2023. The student may be nominated for work accomplished prior to 2023, but the **focus should be on work done while enrolled in medical school**. The nomination of a student who was not previously nominated is strongly encouraged. However, a previously nominated student may be nominated again if substantial achievements have occurred during the period between the two nominations.

### **WHO CAN NOMINATE?**

The nomination may be made by the Medical School Dean, Awards Committee, Faculty Member, or medical student organization. The final award nomination must be made through the Medical School or College Dean or designee (e.g., Medical School Awards Committee or another Dean).

### **NOMINATION PACKAGE COMPONENTS (Note: forms must be completed electronically)**

1. Nomination form containing information about the nominee, nominator, timing and location of the award presentation, and where/to whom to send the award.
2. A nomination narrative no longer than two typed pages, single-spaced and font size of 12 or larger.

*Do not send newsletters, letters of recommendation, or CVs, in lieu of the nomination narrative or as an attachment to the nomination package.*

### **NOMINATION GUIDANCE**

The Dean and/or Medical School Awards Committee should select the nominee. **Only one student from each medical school may be nominated, except in rare circumstances** (e.g., two students co-lead a major project). The student should be evaluated to determine the extent to which they have demonstrated excellence and dedication to one or more of the following achievements while enrolled in your medical school.

1. Development and implementation of programs that advance the overarching goals and achieve the objectives of *Healthy People 2030*.<sup>1</sup> The overarching goals of *Healthy People 2030* are:
  - Attain healthy, thriving lives and well-being free of preventable disease, disability, injury, and premature death.
  - Eliminate health disparities, achieve health equity, and attain health literacy to improve the health and well-being of all.
  - Create social, physical, and economic environments that promote attaining the full potential for health and well-being for all.
  - Promote healthy development, healthy behaviors, and well-being across all life stages.

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<sup>1</sup> More information on “Healthy People 2030” can be accessed at <https://health.gov/healthypeople>

<sup>2</sup> More information on “The Surgeon General’s Priorities” can be accessed at <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/priorities/prevention/strategy/index.html>

2. Development and implementation of programs that address *The Surgeon General's Priorities*<sup>2</sup>:
  - COVID-19
  - Health Misinformation
  - Health Worker Burnout
  - Youth Mental Health
3. Participation in programs that support the philosophy and/or goals of the U.S. Public Health Service as articulated in the specific objectives of *Healthy People 2030* and/or *The Surgeon General's Priorities*.
4. Accomplishments of a single outstanding act of significant benefit to a medically underserved community. Examples could be projects supporting improved access to health services through advocacy or outreach efforts.
5. Completion of research that adds to the knowledge base needed to advance the goals of *Healthy People 2030* and/or *The Surgeon General's Priorities*.
6. Conduct applied public health activities in collaboration with local, state, or federal public health agencies to investigate health threats, implement control measures, and recommend preventive actions (e.g., assisting with outbreak investigation, analyzing surveillance data, developing guidance documents).

The nomination narrative will also be used to evaluate the student's award candidacy based on the level of leadership demonstrated (e.g., starting a program versus participating in an already-existing program), the impact of the student's work (e.g., size of population affected, magnitude of health impact), and the student's commitment to a career in public health/preventive medicine (e.g., through pursuit of additional degrees and/or training).

#### **STUDENT SELECTION & AWARD PRESENTATION**

The Dean or Awards Committee of each medical school will select **one** nominee to forward to the U.S. Public Health Service Physicians Professional Advisory Committee's (PPAC) Medical Student Awards Subcommittee for evaluation. Once the nominee is selected internally, please complete the nomination package as described above. **The PPAC will arrange for a USPHS Commissioned Officer to present the award in-person or virtually and to provide brief remarks when invited and feasible to do so.** In addition, the strongest overall nominee will receive national recognition.

(Please note, receipt of the award does not imply official endorsement by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the award should not be used to promote specific products or services.)

#### **NOMINATION REVIEW PROCESS AND DEADLINE INFORMATION**

The nomination package must be completed and submitted electronically to the USPHS PPAC Medical Student Awards Subcommittee at [PHSmedstudentaward@cdc.gov](mailto:PHSmedstudentaward@cdc.gov) by **Friday, January 13, 2023**. Please copy the award co-chairs, CAPT Kimberly Smith at [kimberly.smith@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:kimberly.smith@fda.hhs.gov) and CDR Andrew Geller at [ageller@cdc.gov](mailto:ageller@cdc.gov). A confirmation email will be sent out within **five** business days after the nomination is received. If a confirmation email is not received, please contact CAPT Smith at [kimberly.smith@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:kimberly.smith@fda.hhs.gov) or CDR Geller at [ageller@cdc.gov](mailto:ageller@cdc.gov).

The USPHS PPAC Medical Student Awards Subcommittee will review each nomination to ensure that the nominee meets the selection criteria and to select the national awardee. The nominator and school contact person (Items B and D of the Nomination Form) will be notified of the award by email, and the award and other presentation materials will be sent to the contact person (Item D of the Nomination Form) at least one week before the award presentation date (Item C of the Nomination Form).