

The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award
Presented by
The Arnold P. Gold Foundation
Procedures and Criteria

Purpose

The purpose of the **Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award presented by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation** ("the Foundation") is to recognize exemplars of humanism in the delivery of care to patients and their families. Participating medical schools agree to abide by the following conditions related to the 2022 Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award program (Tow Award).

Agreement

The Foundation, wishing to honor one graduating medical student and one faculty member for exemplifying outstanding humanism in medicine and scientific excellence, agrees to award each recipient a certificate suitable for framing and up to \$500 payable to the awardee. In the case of a tie, where more than one student or faculty member are selected to share the award, the participating medical school must clear the circumstances with the Foundation prior to announcement of the award.

The participating medical school agrees to:

- a. Present the award at the **major awards ceremony or event** for graduating seniors and faculty recognition (such as commencement, senior awards banquet, or faculty award ceremony);
- b. Print awardee names in the graduation program or other ceremony or awards program, as appropriate, citing the award as **The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards presented by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation**;
- c. Announce The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards presented by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation on campus (i.e., via e-mail, promotional materials, social media, etc.), publicize them in school publications and, if possible, local media; and
- d. Submit digital versions of printed programs and any publicity received for this award to Michelle Sloane (msloane@gold-foundation.org) as part of the final report.

Eligibility

Accredited schools of medicine in the US and Canada are eligible to participate in the Tow Award program. Recipients need to be a graduating senior and a faculty member (MD or DO and/or faculty member with substantial clinical teaching responsibilities). Each school selects awardees according the **criteria** listed at the end of this document.

Note additionally that:

- a. Previous Tow faculty awardees become eligible for selection 5 years after previous award.
- b. House staff and residents are not eligible for the award.
- c. Posthumous awards are not permitted.
- d. Self-nomination is not permitted.

Nomination and Selection Process

Awardees are selected by medical schools participating in the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award program. The Foundation provides an award certificate and a check for the recipients once notified of their selection by the school; the certificate is signed by the appropriate dean or institutional signatory.

The participating medical school agrees to engage in a fair and impartial process for the nomination and selection of two recipients that draws from a diverse and inclusive pool of candidates from the entire school – one medical school faculty member (MD or DO and/or faculty member with substantial clinical teaching responsibilities) and one graduating senior. Guidelines for a fair process include:

- a. Ensure the invitation for nominations is communicated clearly and broadly to the graduating medical class and includes the detailed award criteria listed below.
- b. If voting is used as part of the process, maximize participation of entire student body to the extent possible.
- c. If a selection committee is used, the Foundation encourages the participation of past recipients.
- d. The student award is specifically targeted to a graduating fourth-year medical student.

- e. Faculty awardees and student awardees who are not currently members of the Gold Humanism Honors Society (GHHS) automatically become members of GHHS.

Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) and the Tow Award

For a school that has a GHHS chapter:

- it is highly likely that the student Tow awardee will be a member of GHHS, since the Tow Award recognizes the premier exemplars of humanism in medicine. However, a fair and equitable nomination and selection process should draw from the *entire* body of graduating medical students, regardless of GHHS membership.
- Faculty awardees should be available to support local GHHS chapter activities.

Revocation

In the unlikely event that a past or current recipient of the Tow Award engages in ethical or professional misconduct, the School may elect to rescind the award. Such revocation is also grounds for automatic revocation of GHHS membership. In this case, the School must notify the Foundation as soon as practicable and in no event later than thirty (30) days following such action so that the individual can be removed from Foundation Tow registries and from GHHS membership.

Report Requirements – Interim Report

The participating medical school agrees to submit a complete Interim Report Form electronically by the date identified on the electronic Interim Report Form or 60 days prior to the ceremony. The form is available at <https://www.gold-foundation.org/programs/leonard-tow-humanism-in-medicine-award/leonard-tow-humanism-in-medicine-awards-interim-report-form/>. If an extension to this deadline is necessary, contact Michelle Sloane at msloane@gold-foundation.org. Please note the following:

- Print or save the form information to your computer's hard drive as there is no save feature on the form.
- Awardee profiles must include a brief biosketch of each awardee **including the awardee's humanistic qualifications** and a headshot photo. If you do not have the biosketch and headshot at the time of submission they both need to be submitted within 30 days to the attention of Michelle Sloane, msloane@gold-foundation.org.
 - **Please note that CVs or MSPE letters are not accepted.**
 - In signing the Tow Award Agreement to participate in the program, note that the school acknowledges that the Foundation may include information about this award, including awardees' bios, headshots, and school information, in any public reports or press releases it may produce.
- Upon receipt and approval of the interim report and awardee profiles, the Foundation will prepare and mail the award packet including checks and certificates. **Checks are made out directly to the awardees.** To request an exception and have the check made out to your institution and distributed to your awardees on our behalf, please contact msloane@gold-foundation.org.
- The certificates need to be signed by the appropriate dean or institutional signatory before being presented to the recipients.

Report Requirements – Final Report

The participating medical school agrees to submit a complete Final Report Form electronically no later than thirty (30) days following the presentation of awards. The form is available at <https://www.gold-foundation.org/programs/leonard-tow-humanism-in-medicine-award/leonard-tow-humanism-in-medicine-awards-final-report-form/>. Attach copies of electronic materials and mail all other printed materials, photographs, newspaper articles, programs, etc. to: The Arnold P. Gold Foundation, 619 Palisade Ave., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632.

Award Criteria

The Foundation champions humanism in healthcare, which we define as compassionate, collaborative, and scientifically excellent care. Those honored by the Foundation with the Tow Award are expected to reflect these values in daily practice and to continuously strive to be exemplars of humanism in healthcare. For your nomination and selection process, please consider the following criteria for identifying awardees, specifically considering the qualities of integrity, excellence, collaboration, compassion, respect, empathy, and service.

Graduating Medical Student

- consistently demonstrates compassion and empathy in the delivery of care to patients
- illustrates professional and ethical behavior by example

- shows respect for the viewpoint of others, even when it differs from their own
- demonstrates cultural sensitivity in working with patients and family members of diverse backgrounds
- demonstrates and models the values of diversity, equity and inclusion in their daily work and life
- displays effective communication and listening skills—good rapport with patients
- understands patients' need for interpretation of complex medical diagnosis and treatment and makes an effort to assure patient comprehension—shows respect for the patients' viewpoint
- helps to articulate the patients' concerns to attending physicians and others
- sensitive to the patients' psychological well-being
- cooperative, respectful and easy to work with - engenders trust and confidence
- willing to help others and, when necessary, willing to seek help from others
- displays concern for the general welfare of the community and engages in volunteer activities
- seeks and accepts constructive feedback, using it to improve performance
- committed to reflection and objective self-evaluation of his/her skills
- displays competence in scientific endeavors

Medical School Faculty Member (MD or DO and/or faculty member with substantial clinical teaching responsibilities)

- consistently demonstrates compassion and empathy in the delivery of care to patients
- serves as a role model—illustrates professional behavior by example
- approachable and accessible to students
- welcomes opportunities for teaching and one-on-one mentorships with students
- exhibits enthusiasm and skill in professional and personal interactions with students
- shows respect for the viewpoint of others, even when it differs from their own
- demonstrates cultural sensitivity in working with patients and family members of diverse backgrounds
- demonstrates and models the values of diversity, equity and inclusion in their daily work and life
- displays effective communication and listening skills
- understands patients' need for interpretation of complex medical diagnoses and treatments and makes an effort to ensure patient comprehension—shows respect for the patient's viewpoint
- sensitive to the patients' psychological well-being
- effectively identifies emotional concerns of patients and family members
- cooperative, respectful and easy to work with - engenders trust and confidence
- adheres to professional and ethical standards
- committed to reflection and objective self-evaluation of his/her skills
- displays competence in scientific endeavors

Timeline Overview

