



# The Physician Advocacy Merit Award

Institute on Medicine as a Profession at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

## Application Guidelines

The IMAP Physician Advocacy Merit Award seeks to give national recognition to three physicians for their commitments and accomplishments. This annual award includes a \$10,000 gift intended to support their ongoing efforts in promoting and realizing the principles of civic engagement.

### **Background**

To fulfill the principles of medical professionalism requires going beyond the traditional scope of practice and exclusive focus on the care of individual patients. As vital as the precepts of altruism, competence, and self-regulation are to physicians, so is the need for them to confront and help overcome the social, economic, and political barriers that undermine health and well-being. Physicians engaged in this task typically face scarce resources, indifferent colleagues, and too little available time. Nevertheless, they often overcome the many obstacles and effectively promote social justice for vulnerable populations and communities. The aim of this Merit Award is to recognize and support their efforts, and to encourage others to follow in the footsteps.

### **Application process**

Physicians practicing in the U.S. who are currently engaged in advocacy efforts on behalf of their patients and their communities are eligible for the award. Applications may come from the physicians themselves or they may be nominated by others. Physicians in a residency or fellowship program and medical students are not eligible. In order to grow the field, we especially encourage candidates who are at an early or mid-point in their career.

### **Personal statement**

Candidates are required to submit a personal statement not to exceed 1,000 words. It should address:

- (1) how the candidate became involved in advocacy;
- (2) the specific advocacy efforts of the candidate: the targets, the goals, and the forms of the advocacy;
- (3) the candidate's future plans and potential in the field of advocacy.

### **Letter(s) of Support**

The candidate should submit one or two letters of support from a person or organization knowledgeable of the advocacy work of the candidate. The letter(s) should address the nature of the advocacy effort and its impact on system change and the lives of those affected.

### **Documentation of advocacy efforts**

This may be in the form of press clippings, legislative testimony, drafted/passed legislation, or testimonials from key decision-makers/policy-makers who can speak directly to advocacy successes. Please submit no more than three pieces of documentation.

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## Timeframe

The deadline for receipt of completed application packets is September 2, 2008.

Candidates will be notified by mid-October and presented with the award at the annual Institute on Medicine as a Profession national advocacy meeting in November, 2008.

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## Submission Instructions

Completed applications must be sent by **FedEx** or **UPS** and should be addressed to:

**Physician Advocacy Merit Award  
Institute on Medicine as a Profession**  
c/o Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons  
622 West 168th Street, PH 1525  
New York, NY 10032  
(212) 305-4184

For additional inquiries please email **[advocacy@imapny.org](mailto:advocacy@imapny.org)**  
or visit **[www.imapny.org/advocacy](http://www.imapny.org/advocacy)**.

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## IMAP Mission Statement

The Institute on Medicine as a Profession (IMAP) aims to set forth a vision for professionalism in the 21st century and to promote that vision through research and policy initiatives. The Institute seeks to shape a world inside and outside of medicine that is responsive to the ideals of professionalism. IMAP conducts research on the past, present, and futures roles of professionalism in guiding individual behavior and collection action so that professionalism will be relevant to physicians, leaders of medical organizations, policy analysts, public officials, and consumers. **[www.imapny.org](http://www.imapny.org)**