



# The Physician Advocacy Merit Award

Institute on Medicine as a Profession at Columbia University

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## Application Guidelines

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

## Background

Fulfilling the principles of medical professionalism requires a physician to go beyond the traditional scope of practice and to accomplish more than exclusively focusing 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 limited available time. Nevertheless, they often overcome these obstacles and promote social justice for vulnerable populations and communities. The aim of the IMAP Merit Award is to recognize and support their efforts, and to encourage others to follow in their 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. We especially encourage candidates who are at an early or mid-point in their careers. Please see the profiles of past Merit Award winners for information on the types of physicians we support.

### 1. Personal Statement

Candidates are required to submit a personal statement not to exceed 1,500 words. It should address:

- (1) how the candidate became involved in advocacy;
- (2) the candidate's specific advocacy efforts (targets, goals, locus—national, local, etc—and forms of the advocacy);
- (3) what has been accomplished;
- (4) the candidate's future plans and potential in the field of advocacy.

## 2. Current CV (4-page limit)

## 3. Letters of Support

Applicants should submit two letters of support – one from a person and one from an organization – that address the nature of the applicant's advocacy efforts and their impact on system change and the lives of those affected.

## 4. Documentation of Advocacy Efforts

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

## 5. Completion of Advocacy Profile Worksheet

Please complete the attached worksheet that details your advocacy efforts to date (see end of document).

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### **Timeframe**

The deadline for receipt of completed application packets is 5:00 pm EST on Monday, August 15, 2011. Candidates will be notified by late September, 2011 and presented with the award at the annual Institute on Medicine as a Profession national advocacy meeting on November 17th and 18th, 2011. Awardees will present at the meeting to share their experiences with the fellows.

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### **Submission Instructions**

Completed applications must be sent in PDF format to [pj2225@columbia.edu](mailto:pj2225@columbia.edu) by 5:00 pm EST on Monday, August 15, 2011. Letters of support may be sent with the completed application or directly to [pj2225@columbia.edu](mailto:pj2225@columbia.edu).

Email Phoebe Johnson-Black, the Physician Advocacy Program Coordinator, with any questions at [pj2225@columbia.edu](mailto:pj2225@columbia.edu) or visit [www.imapny.org/physician\\_advocacy/merit-award](http://www.imapny.org/physician_advocacy/merit-award).

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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.

## Candidate Worksheet

Please check appropriate box(es) for each category:

### **Advocacy Focus:**

- Health access
- Patient/consumer protection
- Health disparities
- Medical education/training
- Health workforce
- Health resources
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Advocacy Target:**

- Legislators (national, state or local)
- Regulators (national, state or local)
- Professional colleagues
- Patient/consumer groups
- Others: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Advocacy is conducted on behalf of:**

- Patient/population groups: \_\_\_\_\_
- Community groups: \_\_\_\_\_
- National groups: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Career Stage:**

- Early (within 5 years of completing residency/fellowship)
- Mid (6-20 years post residency/fellowship)
- Senior (>20 years post residency/fellowship)

### 2010 Merit Award Winners

1) Dr. Michael Gittelman, MD, FAAP

Dr. Gittelman is a pediatric emergency room physician at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and an Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the University Of Cincinnati School Of Medicine. He completed his undergraduate work at Swarthmore College and his medical school training at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, before completing a residency at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, PA and a fellowship in Emergency Medicine at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

Dr. Gittelman is an innovator in the field of injury control. While a first-year fellow, he helped design and implement a mandatory two-week course for all pediatric residents on Injury Prevention and Advocacy. In the thirteen years since, this curriculum has educated countless pediatric residents in the principles of injury prevention and led them to be more involved in the communities they serve. The American Academy of Pediatrics is currently working to develop a similar program nationally. Dr. Gittelman currently runs the Injury Prevention Program within the Division of Emergency Medicine. He also works with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, conducting Injury Free Coalition for Kids site work both locally and nationally, and is in the process of building an integrated injury prevention center in Southwest Ohio. In recognition of his work, Dr. Gittelman was appointed the Chairperson of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Section on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention, where he serves nationally as an advocate and educator.

2) Deborah Frank, MD

Dr. Frank received her undergraduate degree from Radcliffe College and her MD from Harvard Medical School. During her pediatric residency training at Children's Hospital in Seattle, Dr. Frank began her work caring for children with the disorder known then as "Failure to Thrive." Although at the time it was believed that "Failure to Thrive" was caused by a psychiatric aberration in the mother, Dr. Frank recognized that it was in fact a manifestation of malnutrition and that innumerable children were unnecessarily suffering from one of the most preventable and treatable developmental impairments in the world.

Dr. Frank is currently a Professor of Pediatrics at the Boston University School of Medicine, and she is also the founder and director of the "Grow Clinic" at Boston Medical Center, a multidisciplinary specialty clinic that cares for children who suffer from malnutrition resulting from their family's lack of access to food. The Grow Clinic has served over 2000 children and has become a national model. Dr. Frank also serves as the leader of a multisite collaborative now called Children's HealthWatch. For the past 12 years, this organization has been extremely successful in conducting research on the impact of public policies on young children's health and development and has

disseminated its results to policymakers and advocacy organizations nationwide. Furthermore, Dr. Frank has spoken on these issues to a large number of national conferences, congressional staff briefings, federal agencies, and congressional committees. Recently, Dr. Frank has taken on the issue of the impact of intrauterine cocaine exposure on children, opposing criminal sanctions for women who choose to continue their pregnancies while suffering from an addictive disorder.

3) XinQi Dong, MD, MPH

Dr. Dong is an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Behavioral Sciences and Gerontological Nursing at the Rush University Medical Center. He received his BA from the University of Chicago, his MPH from the University of Illinois at Chicago, his medical degree from Rush Medical College, and his clinical training in internal medicine and geriatric from Yale University Medical Center. Having emigrated from China, Dr. Dong has a long-standing interest in human rights issues and social justice for vulnerable populations. Dr. Dong focuses on healthy aging and violence prevention in the communities and works to improve community understanding of the prevention, detection, and intervention strategies for elder abuse. He also works to promote civic engagement to advocate for these issues.

Dr. Dong was instrumental in the Chicago Wellbeing Task Force and Legislative Task Force, which helped pass the IL Elder Abuse Act into law. He helped to guide the task force in its efforts to provide educational resources and training to 50,000 city workers, grass-roots organizations, and local social services agencies on the issues of vulnerable seniors and elder abuse. Dr. Dong has partnered with various community organizations, initiated a community advisory board, created an innovative “Saturday with Senior” program to provide health promotion exercise training, and provided relevant advice on community health issues in a column called “Ask Dr. Dong” in a local newspaper. Dr. Dong currently serves as an APSA Congressional Policy Fellow/ Health and Aging Policy Fellow in Washington, DC to further advocate for the issues of elder abuse and neglect at the national level.

**To see previous year winners, please visit**

[http://www.imapny.org/physician\\_advocacy/merit-award/awardees](http://www.imapny.org/physician_advocacy/merit-award/awardees)