

**Faculty of Medicine Social Responsibility Award**

**in Postgraduate Medical Education**

**Purpose**

The Social Responsibility Awards recognize the outstanding contributions of faculty members and residents in the development and/or implementation of socially responsible initiatives, programs or research related to postgraduate medical education. The PGME Social Responsibility Awards address PGME Strategic Direction #4 which is to foster leadership in social accountability among faculty and learners. Postgraduate medical education lays the groundwork of experience, attitudes, ethics and responsibility prior to independent practice. As such, it is vital that learners are exposed to health service, health status and health determinant disparities and understand their responsibility in ensuring equitable access to healthcare and facilitating the highest health status possible for individuals and communities in Ontario, Canada and globally. The purpose of the award is to emphasize the importance of social responsibility to postgraduate training and to acknowledge the leadership of specific individuals in helping Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) meet its social accountability mandate.

**What is Social Responsibility?**

*Social Responsibility* refers to the obligations of the University, the Faculty of Medicine and Postgraduate medical trainees, faculty and administration to make decisions and take actions that will enhance the welfare and interests of society as well as our institution. *Social Responsibility* is an ethical imperative based on the interdependence of individuals, institutions, societies and the environment. Social responsibility can be effected by applying the principles of equity, reciprocity, stewardship, solidarity and duty in a reasonable, responsive, transparent, inclusive and accountable manner.

*Social Accountability* refers to our commitment to *demonstrate* social responsibility in our education, research and service activities. This is achieved by developing policies and setting measureable benchmarks for the engagement of communities and meeting their needs, the expression of certain values, and their translation to practice.

**What is Social Responsibility in Postgraduate Medical Education?**

Medicine at University of Toronto (UofT) is committed to fulfilling our social responsibility to benefit society at large through excellence, integrity and innovation in our research, education and work in health sciences[[1]](#footnote-1). PGME at UofT has a mandate to graduate physician specialists and primary care providers who competently and comprehensively provide care to diverse patient populations and communities. They must understand the health care system in Canada and the values that animate it, as well as have a critical perspective on the socio-economic factors that affect individual and community health. Graduates should be able to use evidence and values to advocate, socially and politically, for improvements in the quality of patient care, the health care system and the determinants of health. This can be achieved through responsible partnerships, collaboration, and needs-based scholarship. Capacity building, serving vulnerable and marginalized populations, improving access, and an emphasis on equity are ways in which our graduates can contribute to our social responsibility mandate. Global Health knowledge and skills can be an important tool in improving the health of individuals and populations in Canada and globally.

**Award**

Up to 2 awards will be presented annually **recognizing one faculty and one post-graduate trainee (resident or fellow)** who have made a significant contribution to research, education and/or practice, promoting social responsibility or demonstrating social accountability. The domains of social responsibility, as described above and below, will be used to evaluate nominees. Each will receive a certificate with a financial prize.  Winners will be notified directly by PGME and will be recognized at the Faculty of Medicine’s Annual Educational Achievement Day. Winners will also be invited to contribute as a presenter at the Annual PGME Global Health Day.

**Eligibility**

* **Faculty:** Any faculty member in any department, who participates in the education of post-graduate trainees at the University of Toronto.
* **Resident/Fellow**: Any resident/fellow currently registered as a trainee with the postgraduate medical education office.

**Criteria**

 The selection committee will consider the following criteria:

* Contribution of the nominee to assessing or meeting the health needs of vulnerable, marginalized or underserved individuals, communities or populations.
* The degree of collaboration and partnerships with individuals, communities and organizations.
* Nominee leadership and advocacy, overall and within post-graduate programs.
* Contributions of the nominee to scholarship in the area of social responsibility/accountability.
* Contribution of the nominee to awareness and promotion of social responsibility/accountability among trainees and/or faculty and as a PGME priority.
* Role of the nominee in local, national and international initiatives which are committed to developing critical perspectives on socio-economic factors which affect optimal individual or community health.
* The nominee contributes to and advocates for socially and politically responsible, evidence–informed and sustainable, improvements to health care systems.
* Contributions to the development of future faculty and medical trainee leadership in social responsibility/accountability.
* Nominee commitment and contribution to providing comprehensive care to diverse and vulnerable populations.
* Contribution to addressing the determinants of health, health promotion, disease or injury prevention among individuals, communities and populations.

**Nomination Process**

* Nominations can be made by any faculty member or trainee, or the nominee themselves.
* Faculty member nominations must be supported by a Department Chair.
* Trainee nominations must be supported by a Residency, Fellowship, or Site Director
* The nominator is responsible for the collection and submission of the award nomination package and informing the nominee of their nomination.
* Departments may strike a committee to review and rank nominations. Each department may submit up to two nominees in each category (Faculty and Trainee).
* All nomination packages must be submitted electronically as attached PDF files with the checklist form.
* The nomination cover letter must be addressed to Dr. Salvatore Spadafora, Vice Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education and must reference the award category, Postgraduate Medical Education Social Responsibility Award

**Nomination Package and Checklist**

The electronic submission packages must include the following required documents as well as a completed checklist. Please mark each box with a check and submit it along electronically with the 4 required documents in PDF. Without the completed checklist form the nomination will be considered incomplete.

Required:

1. A nomination form that includes the supporting signature of the chair or program/site director.
2. A letter describing how the nominee meets the selection criteria and outlines their contribution to social responsibility/accountability in postgraduate medical education.
3. 2 Reference letters. References may be from faculty, colleagues, residents and administrators or from relevant agencies or organizations.
4. Complete Curriculum Vitae

**Selection Process**

* After being vetted by the PGME Global Health Education Committee, nominations will be reviewed and ranked. The nominating chairs and winners will be notified annually by the end of March for presentation mid-May
* If you have any questions, please contact arlene.mckinley@utoronto.ca
* Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

PGME Office

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1. Faculty of Medicine Strategic Academic Plan 2011-2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)