

"The meaning of good and bad, better and worse, is simply helping or hurting."

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

"It is much more important to know what sort of a patient has a disease, than what sort of a disease a patient has."

*William Osler*

"We should take care not to make intellect our god; it has, of course, powerful muscles, but no personality."

*Albert Einstein*

"Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of overcoming it."

*Helen Keller*

"In nothing do men approach so nearly to the Gods, as in giving health to men."

*Cicero*

"May I see in all those who suffer only the fellow human being."

*Maimonides*

**ROBERT J. PAEGLOW, MD**  
**2006 AAMC Humanism in Medicine Award Recipient**

Robert J. Paeglow, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Albany Medical College (AMC), is a former radiation safety specialist who entered AMC at age 36, giving new meaning to the term "non traditional student." Despite working 24 hours a week to help support the family during the first two years of medical school, he managed to graduate "Cum Laude," was named Alpha Omega Alpha, was President of his class for 3 years, and received more awards and honors than any of his classmates upon graduation. As a board certified family physician, Dr. Bob has led 25 medical missions involving dozens of medical students and has cared for over 100,000 patients on the mission field, often during his vacation time and at his own financial expense.

In Albany, Dr. Paeglow has made similar financial sacrifices to keep the Koinonia Primary Care/Mental Health Practices located in the Capital Region Prayer and Healing Center, the neighborhood clinic he founded in 2001, up and running. Located in the city's poorest and most crime-ridden area (in the West Hill neighborhood in which he grew up), the clinic's mission is to provide healthcare to "every patient regardless of economic status, social standing, religious or cultural beliefs." Dr. Paeglow's passion to help underserved patients is so deep that he works without a salary, often giving what little he has to those who are penniless: "I've come to the realization that life is not designed for our comfort, or pleasure, but for us to discover our gifts and contribute what we can to make life better for others."

It is that passion which has inspired a new generation of physicians to consider following Dr. Paeglow's path. "Without people like him, the humanity of medicine is lost," says one student. His lectures, courses and programs are so popular, that they are often oversubscribed. In addition to helping students hone their clinical skills, the programs teach them how to advocate on behalf of patients, and how to help those patients overcome barriers to care.



**Wanted:  
Doctors  
with Heart.**

**Call  
for  
Nominations**



**2007 Humanism in Medicine Award**  
presented by the  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
through the support of the  
Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative



[www.positiveprofiles.com](http://www.positiveprofiles.com)

## Wanted: Doctors with Heart.

We're looking for doctors who teach what it means to be a doctor. The people who teach compassion along with cell biology, ethics as well as embryology, service along with science. Is there a faculty physician who has touched your life through

mentoring? Do you have a professor who has shown you what it means to put the patient first? A professor who embodies service through his or her actions in the community? We want to know about these people.

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)

Humanism in Medicine Award, through the support of the Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative (PMHI), annually honors a medical school faculty physician who embodies the finest qualities of a healer and teacher: a caring and compassionate mentor for medical students, and a practitioner of patient-centered care, who teaches ethics, empathy, and service by example.

We need your help to identify our award recipient. No one knows better than medical students the names of those teachers who shine and who live the old adage, "They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

The recipient of the AAMC Humanism in Medicine Award will be honored at an awards dinner held during the 2007 AAMC Annual Meeting. The honoree will receive a grant of \$5,000, and \$1,000 will be donated to the nominating institution's OSR chapter. All eligible nominees will also be awarded a commemorative plaque.

*"One of the essential qualities of the clinician is interest in humanity, for the secret of the care of the patient is in caring for the patient."*  
— Dr. Francis Weld Peabody, 1927 lecture to Harvard medical students

## Selecting the Awardee

Medical schools may nominate one physician faculty member, in a process conducted by the school's Organization of Student Representatives (OSR).

Nomination forms are mailed to the OSR Representatives and the Dean of Student Affairs in December of each year. Each school's OSR representative should appoint an institutional selection committee, ideally comprised of medical students representing the four years of medical study. Students should submit nominations to their institution's selection committee, which then selects their institution's nominee for the national award. The Dean of Student Affairs must sign off on the nomination. Institutions may resubmit the name of a previous year's nominee.

The OSR Administrative Board national selection committee considers the nominations from all schools and conducts a review that results in the selection of the award recipient for the year.

AAMC and PMHI staff serve as advisors to the selection committee.

**Award nominations  
must be received by the AAMC  
by Monday, April 16, 2007.**

**The recipient will be announced at the  
2007 AAMC Annual Meeting.**

## What makes a humanistic faculty physician?

The awardee will be selected based on a number of criteria — his/her professional and personal skills, personal attributes, and professional and academic activities. In all of these areas, the committee will be looking for evidence of five qualities that have been determined to be important defining characteristics of humanism in medical education:

- Positive mentoring skills
- Involvement in community service
- Compassion/Sensitivity
- Collaboration with students and patients
- Modeling ethics of the profession

*"The patient physician relationship is, has been, and must always remain at the heart of the American health care system."*

Mike Magee, MD  
Director, PMHI

In your nomination, the committee will be looking for specific evidence and documentation of these characteristics. Talk to us about the ways in which he/she collaborates with his/her

patients and encourages them to be active in their own health care. Your nomination should also include supporting materials describing the nominee's academic, mentoring, advising, and counseling activities, as well as specific examples of his/her community service.

### Send completed nomination forms to:

Denine Hales  
Administrative Assistant  
Section for Student Affairs and Programs  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
2450 N Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037-1127  
202-828-0681

### Information:

For more information and a nomination form, please visit [www.aamc.org/members/osr/humanism](http://www.aamc.org/members/osr/humanism) or [www.positiveprofiles.com](http://www.positiveprofiles.com).