

2021 PAPAG Physician Assistant (PA) of the Year Award

The Physician Assistant Professional Advisory Group (PAPAG) established the PAPAG Physician Assistant (PA) of the Year Award in 2005. It is presented to a USPHS PA who is recognized for outstanding leadership, exceptional clinical contributions and/or exemplary service and accomplishments, which positively impact the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and the PA profession.

RADM Epifanio “Epi” Elizondo Physician Assistant of the Year Award

In August 2010, RADM Elizondo was appointed Chief Professional Officer (CPO)



for the Health Service Officers (HSO) category. RADM Elizondo served as the CPO for over five years and implemented numerous policies, which have enhanced the capabilities of the HSO category. RADM Elizondo was appointed to the position of Region VI Regional Health Administrator, for which in August 2012, he was promoted to Rear Admiral (Upper Half) making him the highest

ranking PA in the uniformed services. Prior to joining the USPHS Commissioned Corps, Admiral Elizondo served in the US Navy, US Army, and the US Air Force. Despite his numerous professional achievements, RADM Elizondo never forgot his clinical roots and continued to maintain his clinical competency at a local medical treatment facility until his retirement in 2016. This award is presented to a Senior Grade (O-5 and above) USPHS PA who is recognized for outstanding leadership, exceptional clinical contributions and/or exemplary service and accomplishments which positively impact the Public Health Service and PA profession.

RADM Michael R. Milner Physician Assistant of the Year Award

Before receiving his commission into the U.S. Public Health Service in 1989, RADM Milner served in the U.S. Air Force. He is the first PA in any uniformed service to achieve the rank of Rear Admiral and held the title of Assistant United States Surgeon General. From 2003 until his retirement RADM Milner served as



the Regional Health Administrator for HHS Region I. He was recognized as the 2012 AAPA President's Award recipient for his lifetime contributions to the PA profession. RADM Milner was the first recipient of the PA of the Year Award in 2005. This award is presented to a Junior Grade (O-4 and below) USPHS PA who is recognized for outstanding leadership, exceptional clinical

contributions and/or exemplary service and accomplishments, which positively impact the US Public Health Service and PA profession.

PAPAG Award Requirements

Eligibility

Each year, one nominee for the Senior PA of the Year award and one nominee for the Junior PA of the Year award is selected to receive the award. Any active duty USPHS PA Commissioned Corps Officer can be nominated. Current voting members of the PAPAG are not eligible for nomination. Any PHS officer, PHS employee or professional colleague may nominate an eligible PHS Officer. Self-nominations are not allowed. Voting Members of the PAPAG are not eligible.

Award Criteria

Each recipient shall demonstrate one or more of the following professional accomplishments during their current tour of active duty with the US Public Health Service. Activities and accomplishments in prior tours, with other uniformed services or as a civilian do not qualify.

- Outstanding, unquestionable leadership in the US Public Health Service including but not limited to mentoring and impacting fellow PAs.
- Clinical excellence evidenced by high quality work and improved health outcomes with demonstrated and documented impact to patients.
- The application of unique skills or innovation in the approach or solution of a situation(s).
- Contribution or accomplishment, which notably influences and improves public health.
- Professional contributions significant to a division, bureau, agency, community, state, region, or the nation.
- Courage and integrity in hazardous, austere or emergency environments.
- All Nominees must meet Basic Readiness Standards

The award will be presented annually at the Commissioned Officers Association Symposium.

Nomination Procedure

All nomination packages must include:

- Nomination Cover Letter
- Curriculum Vitae – Utilizing current HSO guidelines
- Narrative not to exceed 2 pages single-spaced 1-inch margins (font size 12) that describes:
 - The reason for nomination, area of impact, or extraordinary service (including specific information about the nominee and how their role exceeded normal work requirements)
 - Career highlights and current job description
 - Overall contributions to the Corps

Nomination Submission

- Note: Incomplete packages will not be reviewed.
- Completed nomination packages as a single PDF file are to be submitted to the PAPAG Awards Subcommittee Chair via email by midnight on **Friday, February 5, 2021.**
- Email all nomination packages to the current PAPAG Subcommittee Chair, CDR Karen Russell at karen.russell@fda.hhs.gov.