



OCTOBER 2021 AAPM&R AWARDS SPECIAL ISSUE AWARD WINNERS

RECOGNITION.

AAPM&R has an awards program to recognize members who deserve the applause of their peers. Each year, Academy members are encouraged to submit award nominations to recognize lifetime achievement, distinguished membership, and public service, as well as pioneering physiatrists, clinicians, and researchers who have made significant contributions to both the specialty and to people with disabilities. Please join AAPM&R and its Awards Committee in congratulating this year's award recipients, who will be honored at the AAPM&R 2021 Annual Assembly.

2021 AAPM&R Awards Committee



Steve Flanagan
MD, FAAPMR, Chair



Deborah Lee Bernal
MD, FAAPMR, Member



Steve Geiringer
MD, FAAPMR, Member



A. Deniz Ozel
MD, FAAPMR, Member



Distinguished Member Award

The Distinguished Member Award was established in 1994 to honor AAPM&R members who have provided invaluable service to the specialty of PM&R, and demonstrated excellence in physiatric clinical care, scholarly activities and contributions to the Academy.



Susan L. Hubbell
MD, MS, FAAPMR

Susan L. Hubbell, MD, MS, FAAPMR has been the Medical Director of the Outpatient Rehabilitation Department of Physical Medicine at St. Rita's Medical Center in Lima, OH for over 30 years and is a Clinical Assistant Professor at The Ohio State University, Department of Physical Medicine in Columbus, OH. Dr. Hubbell has been in private practice in Lima since 1986 including starting Physical Medicine Associates of Northwest Ohio, Inc., a single specialty small group practice. She is board certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and board certified by the American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine.

Dr. Hubbell has been practicing for more than 45 years since graduating from The Ohio State University College of Medicine and receiving her license to practice in Ohio. She has been involved with the Academy since her residency and has held several committee appointments, including AAPM&R's Health Policy and Legislation Committee and the Quality, Practice, Policy & Research Committee. She also served on AAPM&R's Program Planning Committee from 2003-2004; chairing the committee in 2004, which is responsible for the strategic planning of the Annual Assembly. She is currently the Academy's Delegation Chair at the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association. Dr. Hubbell's research interests include single fiber electromyography, prosthetics, electromyography and polio. She has authored several book chapters and scientific papers and has been a featured presenter at many specialty events. [📄](#)



Kevin Michael Means
MD, FAAPMR

Kevin Michael Means, MD, FAAPMR is board-certified in PM&R and an AAPM&R Fellow member. Dr. Means currently serves as Professor, Chairman and Associate Residency Program Director of the Department of PM&R at the University of Arkansas for Medical Science (UAMS) College of Medicine in Little Rock. Working as an academician for more than 35 years, Dr. Means has skillfully cared for his patients and research participants. He also represents and serves his colleagues, residents and students, his community, his department and university, affiliated institutions, and the specialty of PM&R, with dignity, dedication and tireless energy, in multiple roles.

Dr. Means is a 1982 graduate of Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC. He completed his PM&R residency at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago/Northwestern University in 1985, and became one of the founding faculty members of a new PM&R Department at UAMS in the same year. While working to establish the UAMS PM&R Department and launch a new PM&R residency program, Dr. Means also devoted time to further develop his career while dividing his time between UAMS and the VA; holding numerous local and national VA positions and advancing within the UAMS and VA health systems. Dr. Means has concurrently and continuously served as UAMS PM&R Department Chairman and Medical Director for the Baptist Health Rehabilitation Institute, a private, UAMS-affiliated location, since 1997, and he also concurrently served as UAMS PM&R Residency Program Director from 1997 until 2015.

Dr. Means has provided decades of service to professional PM&R-related organizations, including membership and leadership roles on several AAPM&R committees, including the Finance, Nominating, Membership, and Strategic Management committees, the Program Planning Subcommittee, the VA Physiatrists Subcommittee, AAPM&R's VA Task Force, and the Council of State Society Presidents. He has received numerous national and local awards, honors and recognition for his work as a clinician, educator and researcher, with pioneering research and clinical work on the prevention of falls and rehabilitation of balance disorders in elderly persons. [📄](#)



Frank H. Krusen, MD, Lifetime Achievement Award

The Academy's highest honor is the Frank H. Krusen, MD Lifetime Achievement Award. It was established in 1972 in honor of Frank H. Krusen, MD, a founding father and the fourth president of the Academy who was a leader in the development of the specialty of PM&R. Recipients of the Frank H. Krusen Award are selected for their outstanding and unique contributions to the specialty of PM&R in the areas of patient care, research, education, literary contributions, community service, and involvement in Academy activities.



Stanley A. Herring
MD, FAAPMR

Stanley A. Herring, MD, FAAPMR is a board-certified physiatrist who has been in practice for more than 38 years. He is a Clinical Professor in the Departments of Rehabilitation Medicine, Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine, and Neurological Surgery at the University of Washington in Seattle. Dr. Herring holds the Zackery Lystedt Sports Concussion Endowed Chair.

Dr. Herring is a co-founder of the Sports Institute at UW Medicine where he serves as Senior Medical Advisor, and he also serves as Co-medical Director of the UW Medical Sports Concussion Program. He is also Co-medical Director of UW Medicine Orthopedic Health and Sports Medicine, and he is one of the team physicians for the Seattle Seahawks and Seattle Mariners. Dr. Herring's practice focuses on the diagnosis and management of neurological and musculoskeletal injuries, particularly spinal disorders in active people and athletes as well as sports-related concussions.

Dr. Herring has held many national leadership positions, including President of the North American Spine Society, member of the Board of Trustees of the American College of Sports Medicine, and Board Member of the Foundation for Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation. He is also a founding member of the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine and the Physiatric Association of Sports, Spine and Occupational Rehabilitation.

Dr. Herring is on the editorial board of professional journals and has been an editor of nine textbooks as well as an author of 97 peer-reviewed journal articles and 55 textbook chapters. He was a major contributor to the successful passage of the Zackery Lystedt Law in Washington State, and his continued work helped pass similar youth concussion legislation in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, Dr. Herring is a frequent national and international speaker on a variety of physiatric and sports medicine topics. [📄](#)



Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez
MD, FAAPMR

Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez, MD, FAAPMR is an accomplished academic Physiatrist, and Professor and Chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine at UT Health in San Antonio, TX. She previously was the Medical Director of the Brain Injury and Stroke Program at TIRR Memorial Hermann Hospital, a top three *US News and World Report* Best Hospital for Rehabilitation. She is currently the Clinical Chief of PM&R at the University Hospital System, and the Medical Director of Critical Illness Recovery and Neurorehabilitation at Warm Springs Rehabilitation Hospitals in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Gutierrez grew up in South Texas, then moved to Houston where she earned her undergraduate degree at Rice University, her medical degree at Baylor College of Medicine, and completed her PM&R residency training at the Baylor College of Medicine-UT Houston Rehabilitation Alliance. She moved to San Antonio to lead the distinguished Department of Rehabilitation Medicine in 2020. Her area of clinical expertise is the care of patients with traumatic brain injury, stroke rehabilitation and interventional spasticity management. Considered a leader in the field of interventional spasticity, she serves as Co-Director of AAPM&R's Interventional STEP Spasticity course. Dr. Gutierrez also served on AAPM&R's Self-Assessment Committee from 2014-2020, where she wrote the SAE-R spasticity questions.

Dr. Gutierrez is a passionate advocate for psychiatry and for underrepresented groups in medicine via social media channels. She is the Social Media Editor of the *American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. She is a current member of the AAPM&R's Inclusion and Engagement Committee. Inspired by her upbringing in the Rio Grande Valley, she is dedicated to giving back to her community by mentoring students, trainees and young faculty and providing top-level clinical care for the underserved. In 2019, she received the Top 25 Women in Healthcare Award, from the National Diversity Council and Healthcare Diversity Council, which recognizes the top women leaders in the city of Houston. She is currently directing a COVID-19 Recovery Clinic, the first in South Texas, which aligns with her mission to increase access to interdisciplinary care, optimize function, and improve quality of life for survivors with Long COVID. [📄](#)



Distinguished Public Service Award

This award was established to honor individuals who, in the course of public service activities, have made significant contributions to enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities, or in vulnerable populations at risk for disabilities.



Maurice G. Sholas
MD, PhD, FAAPMR

Maurice G. Sholas, MD, PhD, FAAPMR is the Founder and Principal for Sholas Medical Consulting, LLC in New Orleans, LA, where he solves operational challenges for individual practitioners, hospitals and healthcare agencies. In addition, he is a subject matter expert on children with special healthcare needs. Dr. Sholas previously served as a Senior Medical Director for multiple children's hospitals and has founded multiple programs in Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine. His work, whether clinical or administrative, is focused on optimizing function and advocating for the marginalized.

Dr. Sholas was born in Baton Rouge, LA, and has traveled the country gathering the educational tools needed for a career that serves children with congenital and acquired physical disabilities as a specialist in Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine. He attended Southern University in Baton Rouge; majoring in Biology with an emphasis in Spanish. The skill set acquired through school and research activities allowed a smooth transition to the MD-PhD Program at Harvard Medical School. In addition to Medical Education, this program allowed Dr. Sholas to receive a terminal degree in the study of Neuroscience. He completed his graduate medical education in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, and received subspecialty training at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (Shirley Ryan AbilityLab) in Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine. He is a prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar.

Dr. Sholas' pursuit of intellectual achievement is matched only by his pursuit of advocacy and inclusion. He feels strongly that every segment of the population has a contribution to make, and that only through advocacy and inclusion can the many voices be heard, consensus reached, and true democracy flourish. He embodies the belief that being a good citizen is a prerequisite to being a great physician/executive. [📄](#)



Kate Sully, MD, FAAPMR
MD, FAAPMR

Kate Sully, MD, FAAPMR will serve as the Director of Pain Medicine at Veteran's Administration Texas Valley Coastal Bend Healthcare System in Harlingen, TX. Prior to her current position, she was a Medical Consultant for the Florida Department of Health in Pensacola, FL and Interventional Physiatrist at the Battle Creek Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in Battle Creek, MI. She completed her medical training at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and is an MBA candidate in Healthcare Administration at Johns Hopkins University's Carey School of Business.

Dr. Sully addresses musculoskeletal pain across multiple platforms, teaching MSK ultrasound on both local and national levels, and has elevated the field of PM&R as the recipient of the International Young Investigator's Award in 2017 for her research in the area. She has amplified health education across multiple media platforms, including digital, radio and television. Dr. Sully continues to contribute to patient care and health advocacy through her work with the American Medical Association, the Food and Drug Administration, the Florida Department of Health and multiple academic specialty committees. She has been an AAPM&R fellow member since 2012, and actively participates in Academy activities.

In an endeavor to assist during the COVID-19 pandemic, she rounds on inpatients, providing a much needed skill set in the treatment of Long COVID and COVID-19 rehabilitation. Dr. Sully is also incredibly proud to be

able to serve our nation's heroes by providing the highest quality care to the veteran population at the VA facilities in Florida and Michigan during her career. [📄](#)



PATIENT-LED RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE

Patient-Led Research Collaborative's mission is to facilitate patient-led and patient-involved research by incorporating participatory design, multi-disciplinary collaborations and rigorous research methodology. A self-organized group of Long COVID patients who formed out of the Body Politic COVID-19 Support Group, were the first to conduct research on Long COVID in April 2020 and have continued to focus on disseminating timely research guided by the collective interests and needs of patients. Their most recent

research was published in *The Lancet's EClinicalMedicine* and documents 205 symptoms over seven months in people with Long COVID. Their work has led to invitations to present to the WHO, the United States House of Representatives, and the President of the United States' COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force, and has informed clinical guidance for the CDC, WHO and NICE. [📄](#)



PASSOR Legacy Award and Lectureship

Established in 2008 to preserve the legacy and namesake of the *Physiatric Association of Spine, Sports, and Occupational Rehabilitation (PASSOR)*, this award is meant to recognize an individual in mid-career who has advanced musculoskeletal physiatry through clinical care, education, service or scholarship (research).



Jonathan Finnoff
DO, FACS, FAMSSM, RMSK, FAAPMR

Jonathan Finnoff, DO, FACS, FAMSSM, RMSK, FAAPMR is the Chief Medical Officer for the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee and a professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science in Rochester, MN. Dr. Finnoff is board certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine.

Dr. Finnoff has published more than 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals, authored multiple book chapters, and co-edited a book with Mark Harrast, MD, FAAPMR, titled "*Sports Medicine: Study Guide and Review for Boards*." He has been a faculty member or course director for numerous national and international conferences and previously served on the boards for AAPM&R and the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM). He was a team physician for the U.S. Ski Team for nearly two decades and has provided medical coverage at the Olympic Winter Games, Paralympic Winter Games, world cups, and world championships. Dr. Finnoff's clinical interests are broad and include multiple sports medicine topics, including advanced diagnostic and interventional ultrasound and exertional leg pain. [📄](#)

Thank You for Nominating

Thank you to all members who participated in this year's awards nominations. 2022 Nominations will open in November; watch [PhyzForum.org](https://www.phyzforum.org) for details.