POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR THE SIGNE BRUNNSTRÖM AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL TEACHING

BOD Y06-08-02-02 [Amended BOD Y03-07-05-09; BOD Y06-06-02-05; BOD Y05-02-02-04; BOD 11-98-29-102; BOD 03-97-06-14; BOD 06-96-10-22; BOD 11-92-11-46; BOD 11-87-27-107; Initial BOD 03-86-30-122] [Policy]

History

In 1986, the Signe Brunnström Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching was established to recognize excellence in teaching effectiveness in the physical therapy clinical setting.

Signe Brunnström (deceased 1988) was a pioneer researcher, author, and clinician in physical therapy. Ms Brunnström received her physical therapy education at the Royal Gymnastics Central Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, and received a master’s degree in Special Education from New York University. Ms Brunnström held teaching appointments at Columbia, New York, and Stanford Universities, and was a Fulbright lecturer in Athens, Greece. While in Athens, she also reestablished a physical therapy school and started an amputee instructor program.

Signe Brunnström dedicated her life to clinical excellence. Her careful observations of motor behavior of patients recovering from stroke have continued to serve as a model for evaluation and treatment. Her observations of motor behavior resulted in the text Movement Therapy in Hemiplegia. Ms Brunnström was also author of a kinesiology text and numerous scholarly writings, and presented many outstanding seminars on the evaluation and treatment of patients needing physical therapy.

Purpose

To acknowledge an individual who has made significant contributions to physical therapy clinical education through excellence in clinical teaching, has served as a role model in clinical teaching, and has demonstrated expertise in at least one area of practice to which the clinical teaching has been directed as exemplified in the professional and teaching career of Signe Brunnström.

In addition to the information provided in the APTA Board of Directors’ Policy and Procedures Regarding APTA Honors and Awards, the following criteria apply to this award:

Criteria for Eligibility

1. Nominees must be physical therapists who have been actively engaged in clinical teaching of physical therapist students (entry or advanced level) or physical therapist assistant students for at least five years.

2. Nominees must be either a center coordinator of clinical education (CCCE) or a clinical instructor (CI), and must be employed or self-employed in a clinical setting. Individuals holding full-time faculty appointments within an academic setting are not eligible for the award.

3. Clinical teaching must occur in a clinical setting, under an arrangement or contract with one or more accredited physical therapist or physical therapist assistant education programs, or advanced level programs for physical therapists, and must occur with students earning academic qualifications.
4. Nominees must possess distinct expertise in at least one area of practice to which the clinical teaching has been directed.

5. Teaching solely as a component of continuing education does not constitute eligibility for this award.

6. Current members of the APTA Board of Directors and members of the APTA Awards Committee – Education Awards Subcommittee are not eligible to be nominated for this award and shall not nominate, write letters of support, or endorse an individual for this award.

Criteria for Selection

The nominee has demonstrated:

1. An exceptional teaching effectiveness in the clinical setting.

2. Excellence as a role model in clinical teaching.

3. A distinct expertise in at least one area of practice to which the clinical teaching has been directed.

Procedure for Nomination

1. Nominations must be submitted electronically via APTA’s website (www.apta.org). All materials completed and submitted for each nomination must be received by the APTA Honors and Awards Program by 5:00 pm Eastern time on December 1, for consideration for the award.

2. The nominator is responsible for reviewing and ensuring the completion of all steps and compliance with eligibility criteria within the online nomination submission process before its final submission. During the online process, the following documents will be required for upload:

   A. Current curriculum vitae or resume of the nominee.

   B. A letter of nomination (from the nominator) that specifically focuses on the strengths of the nominee in relation to the award criteria, not to exceed 3 pages.

   C. Two (2) letters of support, not to exceed 2 pages each, obtained from the following:

      • A physical therapist colleague from the nominee’s clinical center or from an affiliating physical therapy education program; and

      • A current or former student who is representative of an academic level of clinical teaching in which the nominee has been engaged and whose clinical education experience with the nominee has been full-time for a period of at least 3 weeks.

Notification of Award

1. The award recipient and nominator will be notified promptly after selection by APTA’s Board of Directors.

2. The nominators of individuals not selected will receive a letter thanking them for their participation.

Nature of Award

A framed certificate will be presented to the awardee by APTA’s Board of Directors at the NEXT
Conference and Exposition and an official announcement of the award will appear in an Association publication.

(Member Services Department, ext. 8082)

Explanation of Reference Numbers:
BOD P00-00-00-00 stands for Board of Directors/month/year/page/vote in the Board of Directors Minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, BOD P11-97-06-18 means that this position can be found in the November 1997 Board of Directors minutes on Page 6 and that it was Vote 18.