POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR THE EUGENE MICHELS NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD BOD Y08-17-07-12
[Amended BOD Y08-13-06-11; BOD Y03-09-03-07; BOD Y03-09-02-06; Y06-08-02-02; BOD Y03-06-05-07; BOD Y03-05-06-15; BOD 05-02-02-04; BOD 03-99-26-87; BOD 11-98-29-102; BOD 03-97-08-16; BOD 06-96-14-38; BOD 03-93-07-12; BOD 11-92-11-46; Initial BOD 03-89-38-125] [Policy]

History

In 1989, the Eugene Michels New Investigator Award was established to recognize physical therapists engaged in independent research.

The award is named in honor of Eugene Michels (deceased 1996) who, as APTA's associate executive vice president for research and education, provided the major impetus in the association's plans to foster research in physical therapy. Michels received his physical therapy education and completed his graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania, where he then taught for 12 years. He was known by all as an excellent teacher and mentor. For many years, through his famous “road shows,” Michels generously gave his time to teach students and clinicians the basics for conducting clinical research, and to advise developing researchers on numerous aspects of designing, conducting, and reporting results of research in physical therapy. His sustained and outstanding contributions to the association at the component, national and international levels are well known. He served as APTA president for 2 terms (1967-1973), as APTA treasurer (1964-1967), as president of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (1974-1982), and as an active member of the Section on Research. The Annual Eugene Michels Researcher's Forum was established in his honor in 1982, and the Foundation for Physical Therapy established the Eugene Michels Fund for Educational Research in his honor in 1984. Eugene Michels received the Mary McMillan Lecture Award and was selected as a Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the APTA in 1986. His record of leadership and vision will continue to guide efforts to develop and improve physical therapy.

Purpose

To acknowledge outstanding new investigators who have demonstrated a commitment to research relevant to physical therapy as exemplified in the professional and research career of Eugene Michels.

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, at the time of nomination, have been engaged in independent research activities for not more than 10 years after completion of their first physical therapy professional degree, post-professional doctoral degree (other than a transition DPT degree), or post-professional doctoral fellowship, whichever was completed last (ie, from the year the degree is granted until the year the nomination for this award is submitted on December 1).
Eligibility Examples:

A physical therapist professional degree is awarded in 1994 and a postprofessional doctoral degree in 2008; therefore, the 10-year window for eligibility begins in 2008, making the individual eligible for this award through the 2019 Honors and Awards Program (December 1, 2018, deadline for nomination).

A physical therapist professional degree is awarded in 1994, a postprofessional doctoral degree in 2006, and a post-professional doctoral fellowship 2006-2009; therefore, the 10-year window for eligibility begins in 2009, making the individual eligible for this award through the 2020 Honors and Awards Program (December 1, 2019, deadline for nomination).

A post-professional doctoral degree is awarded in 1994 and the first physical therapist professional degree in 2008; therefore, the 10-year window for eligibility begins in 2008 making the individual eligible for this award through the 2019 Honors and Awards Program (December 1, 2018, deadline for nomination).

2. Nominees may be employed in any aspect of physical therapy including, but not limited to, research, education, clinical practice, and consultation.

3. Research activities for which the therapists are being nominated must have been undertaken after completion of all formal education (ie, completion of the first physical therapy professional degree, postprofessional doctoral degree [other than a transition DPT degree], or postprofessional doctoral fellowship, whichever was completed last).

4. There must be a demonstrated relationship between the nominee’s research focus and the field of physical therapy.

5. Nominees must have demonstrated their accomplishments through authorships in peer-reviewed (refereed) journals. Dissemination of knowledge and advancement of the field also is demonstrated by presentations (posters, platforms, workshops) in appropriate scientific forums.

6. Current members of the APTA Board of Directors and members of the APTA Awards Committee’s Research 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

1. Nominees must have been engaged in independent or collaborative research activities for not more than 10 years after completion of formal education (ie, completion of the first physical therapy professional degree, postprofessional doctoral degree [other than a transition DPT degree], or postprofessional doctoral fellowship, whichever was completed last) and have demonstrated a relationship between the research activities and the field of physical therapy.

2. Research activities that have taken place after completion of all formal education (ie, completion of first physical therapy professional degree, postprofessional doctoral degree [other than a transition DPT degree], or postprofessional doctoral fellowship, whichever was completed last) will receive the most weight. Grant funding and extramural funding will be considered.

3. Accomplishment(s) must be demonstrated to be outstanding by the nominator. Evidence must be presented to indicate why it is believed that this contribution will have a present or future impact upon the profession to include, if possible, ways in which the accomplishment has impacted and will impact upon specific members, components (chapters, sections or assemblies), or the practice or teaching of some content related to the field.
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 ET 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 the 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) highlighting the productivity and focus of the nominee’s investigations and specifically focusing on the strengths of the nominee in relation to the award criteria, not to exceed 3 pages.
   
   C. Two letters of support, not to exceed 2 pages each, obtained from individuals who can specifically address the criteria for selection in relation to the nominee.

   Letters of support should:

   - Explicitly state how the nominee is qualified under the criteria for selection by providing details on what the nominee has accomplished during his or her professional career, from the time the nominee earned a physical therapist professional degree or postprofessional doctoral degree, whichever was last, to the time of nomination (not to exceed 10 years), that augments the information contained in the nominee’s vita and how it has demonstrated a commitment to a defined research theme.
   
   - Reflect genuine knowledge and consideration of the nominee’s qualifications for this award.
   
   - Indicate in what capacity the author works or worked with, or otherwise knows personally, the nominee.

   D. Electronic reprints of 1 or 2 scholarly works published or accepted for publication by refereed journals. Copied portions of reprints, drafts of books, or other large publications, may be submitted.

   E. List of scholarly presentations presented at professional meetings (if not included in curriculum vitae or resume).

Notification of Award

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

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

Nature of Award

A crystal etch award and a monetary award will be presented to the awardee(s) by the APTA Board of Directors at the association’s annual conference, and an official announcement of the award will appear in an association publication.
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.