POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR THE OUTSTANDING PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT AWARD
BOD Y06-08-02-02 [Amended; BOD 03-08-02-02; BOD Y03-07-06-13; BOD Y06-06-07-19; BOD 08-03-02-02] [Policy]

History

The Executive Committee of the Affiliate Assembly, a voluntary membership group for physical therapist assistants within APTA, established the Outstanding Physical Therapist Assistant Award in 1991, with the first award recipient recognized in 1992. When the Affiliate Assembly became the National Assembly through the adoption of RC 1-98 APTA Bylaws Revision, the award was re-established within the National Assembly and first presented in 2002.

During the 2005 House of Delegates, bylaw amendments were adopted that dissolved the National Assembly of Physical Therapist Assistants to allow for inclusion of physical therapist assistant leaders within the current, viable and effective governance structure of the Association. As a result of the dissolution of the National Assembly, the newly created Advisory Panel on Physical Therapist Assistants recommended that the award be adopted as a national Association award. In March 2006, APTA’s Board of Directors approved the transition of this award to APTA’s Honors and Awards Program (B of D 3/06, V-12).

Purpose

To acknowledge and honor a physical therapist assistant member of the Association who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in clinical practice, contributions to his/her community and a commitment to the physical therapy profession and Association.

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

A nominee must have:

1. Been engaged in providing clinical services for at least 5 years under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist.

2. Been licensed or regulated if required by the jurisdiction where the individual is working.

3. Experience working in more than 1 practice or educational setting.

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

Criteria for Selection

Outstanding achievements in delivery of patient/client care, service to her/his community, and a commitment to the physical therapy profession and Association have been demonstrated by:
1. Contributions to the former Affiliate or National Assemblies, PTA Advisory Panel, PTA Caucus, and the American Physical Therapy Association, at the national, component, and/or district levels;

2. Service to the community through activities that enhance quality of life and function;

3. Representation and promotion of the role of the physical therapist assistant through education, practice, and/or research as a part of the PT/PTA team;

4. Promotion of ethical standards and professional conduct among peers, students, and patients/clients;

5. Pursuit of career development through continuing education (courses, workshops, in-services, etc); and

6. Service as a role model and inspiration to patients/clients, peers, and students to perform at, or strive to achieve their optimal potential.

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 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) 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 individuals who can specifically address one or more of the criterion(a) for selection.

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

An engraved crystal award 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.