



2016 ASA Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Norman A. Cohen, M.D. Named 2016 ASA Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Jane C.K. Fitch, M.D.

In 1945, ASA developed a way in which to honor a member by creating the “Distinguished Service Award” (DSA). This is the “highest tribute the Society can pay to an ASA member. It may be given for outstanding clinical, educational or scientific achievement, contribution to the specialty and/or exemplary service to the Society.” These requirements, as well as a listing of all prior recipients, can be found on the ASA website at www.asahq.org/about-asa/asa-awards-and-programs/distinguished-service-award.

This year at ANESTHESIOLOGY 2017, Norman A. Cohen, M.D., will be the recipient of the ASA Distinguished Service Award for 2016. Norm, as he is known to so many, received both his B.A. and M.D. degrees at Johns Hopkins University. He did an internal medicine internship at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, then moved to Durham, North Carolina, my hometown, for his anesthesiology residency at Duke University. His CA-3 year focused on both cardiac and critical care anesthesiology. He stayed on faculty for a year at Duke. He then ventured into private practice anesthesiology in Asheboro, North Carolina, then in Billings, Montana. Norm eventually returned to academic anesthesiology at the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), where he has risen through the ranks of academics from an assistant professor to associate professor and now professor.



*Jane C.K. Fitch, M.D., is John L. Plewes
Tenured Professor and Chair,
Department of Anesthesiology,
University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City.
She was ASA President in 2014.*

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OCTOBER 21-25

Norm is deserving of this award in many ways. He has contributed to the scholarship of our specialty by his multitude of publications, book chapters, books, reviews, abstracts, electronic publications and invited lectures. His presentations have been local, state, regional, national and international in scope.

“Norm, we thank you for your many years of service to our patients, our medical specialty of anesthesiology and our profession of medicine. We look forward to your continued contributions!”

Norm has provided service and leadership to ASA and the Oregon Society of Anesthesiologists (OSA). At ASA, he has served on many committees, including chairing the Committee on Economics and Committee on Future Models of Anesthesia Practice. He has served on many ad hoc committees, including chairing the Ad Hoc Committees on Large Group Practice, SGR Reform, Health Policy Research and the Task Force on Accountable Care Organizations. Norm has served our House of Delegates as both an Alternate Delegate and a Delegate, and he has served our Board of Directors as both an Alternate Director and a Director. He is currently serving on our Advisory Group on Meaningful Use and our MACRA steering committee. All of these many activities led him to eventually serve as chair of our Section on Professional Practice, then as our Vice President for Professional Affairs. In that capacity, he served on our Administrative Council. Norm has served as president of the OSA. When I was chairing the ASA Committee on Governmental Affairs, I had the honor of presenting Norm the ASA's Bertram W. Coffey, M.D. Excellence in Government Award.

Norm has also provided service to the Oregon Medical Association as well as the American Medical Association (AMA), serving on our ASA delegation to the AMA. He has also served on the AMA Relative Value System Update Committee (RUC), including several leadership roles. Of note, he led the team that convinced the RUC and Medicare to significantly improve the Medicare anesthesia conversion

factor. He has always been active on his hospital medical staffs. He is currently serving on an American Hospital Association MACRA Implementation Advisory Group.

Norm serves his department and university in a variety of ways, including most recently as president of the Faculty Senate and on the OHSU Practice Plan Board and Management Committee. In addition to his clinical anesthesiology work, he spends half his time as the Medical Director for Coding Improvement and Documentation Integrity for OHSU Healthcare. He is an excellent teacher, evidenced by his receipt of teaching awards while at OHSU.

Within ASA, one did not know Norm without also knowing his late wife, Michelle. She selflessly shared Norm with our specialty, until she needed him as she waged her valiant war against ovarian cancer, which eventually took her from us way too soon. Norm and Michelle had one daughter, Allie, who is now grown, married and living abroad. Norm has been fortunate to find another love in his life, Anna Anderson, and will remarry in 2018.

Norm, we thank you for your many years of service to our patients, our medical specialty of anesthesiology and our profession of medicine. We look forward to your continued contributions!



Dr. Cohen received the Bertram W. Coffey, M.D. Excellence in Government Award in 2010.