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2020 AMSUS Awards



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Jerry Sanders Scholarship Award Winners for 2020



Madelyn Letendre

attending the
United States Air Force
Academy to study
biochemistry



Ian Hipp

attending Loyal University
Chicago to study biology



Nikitha Sridhar

Attending University of
California Berkeley to study
chemical engineering with a
pre-med track



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Andrew Craige Allied Health Professional Award Winner

LTC George A. Barbee, SP, USA

Is recognized for his stellar performance as an Army Physician Assistant who has been instrumental to the medical support and medical force readiness at XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, NC. His expertise in operational medicine and as a medical planner has been capitalized in deployment preparedness and during combat deployments.



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Dentist Award Winner

CDR Cecilia M. Brown-Marshall, DC, USN

Is recognized for her exceptional leadership. Her leadership is the direct result of the outstanding efficiency and effectiveness of the Oral Surgery Clinic and the high state of dental readiness at NAS Jacksonville. She increased clinical readiness while ensuring a 98% dental readiness across the command.



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Innovator Award Winner

Kevin O'Brien, PhD

Dr. O'Brien was asked to build an apparatus for use at the US Army Aeromedical Research Lab (USAARL) which could simulate the impact of nutritional supplementation on visual performance. He created a laboratory instrument which could both perform relevant demonstrations and rapidly collect psychophysical performance data for acuity, contrast sensitivity, subjective discomfort and a novel target detection task. He performed all of the optical calculations, designed every circuit board, soldered every component, wrote all of the firmware and software, and automated the data analysis. The impact that this Desktop Vision Tester designed and built by Dr. O'Brien, currently is pending patent review, has been used in multiple research efforts at USAARL and has saved hundreds, if not thousands of SME and technician man-hours.



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Lewis L. Seaman Senior Enlisted Award Winner

SMSgt Daniel Mueller, USAF

For his leadership and dedication to keeping air transportation missions moving smoothly and safely across the European Command during the COVID-19 pandemic.



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Lewis L. Seaman Junior Enlisted Award Winner

TSgt Suzanne L. Ardary, USAF

TSgt Ardary is recognized for her proven leadership skills which resulted in her selection to manage the Unit Training Manager program at JBSA-Lackland, overseeing the Air Force's largest dental training program.



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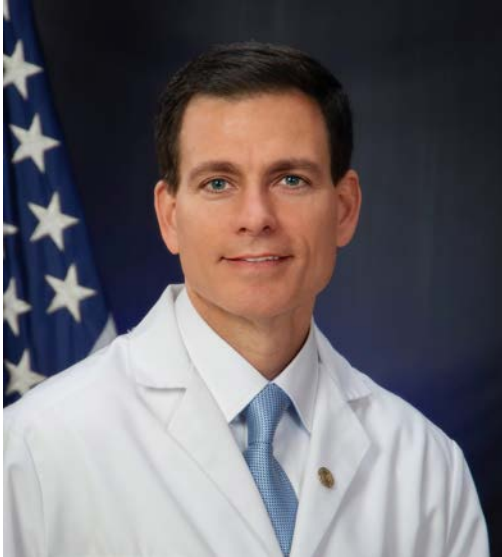
Management & Administration Award Winner

TSgt Tashawn L. Burns-Davis, USAF

Is recognized for superb skills in management and administration. As the 2nd Medical Group Executive Officer, she maximized the efficiency and effectiveness of human resources and administrative operations in the group. She positively impacted the Occupational Health Program through her management guidance and expertise resulting in a safe environment for military personnel and their families on Barksdale AF Base.



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Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

COL Paul Pasquina, MC, USA (Ret)

Dr. Paul Pasquina had dedicated his 30-year career to the care of our nation's service members and their families and to the advancement of technologies, treatments and therapies to improve their lives and those of our veterans. Board certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, he has spent his career mobilizing resources and implementing programs to create world-class rehab programs for severely injured casualties returning from conflict. His direct efforts formed the foundation of the comprehensive and internationally-recognized wounded warrior treatment programs at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, San Antonio and San Diego.



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Nursing Award Winner

CDR Kennett Radford, NC, USN

Is recognized for his exceptional commitment to the education of future nurse anesthetists and graduate nursing students as the Deputy Program Director and Research Director for the Registered Nurse Anesthesia Program at USU. His leadership contributed to an overall 100% pass rate on the National Certifying Exam from 2018-2020. His teaching, mentorship, and commitment to academic excellence resulted in his selection as the 2020 Distinguished Military Faculty at Uniformed Services University.



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Operational Medicine Award Winner

MSgt Manuel Molina, III, USAF

Is recognized for his leadership as Flight Chief for Medical Operations in support of operation Inherent Resolve and Freedom's Sentinel. He provided the supervision and direction for 38 joint personnel which was essential to the coordination of deployed medical and dental services supporting the 6,000 joint and coalition forces in support of this operation. In addition, MSgt Molina administered live saving measures which saved three joint coalition personnel.



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Physician Award Winner

MAJ Steven S. Hong, MC, USA

MAJ Hong is recognized for creating the COVID-19 Airway Management Isolation Chamber (CAMIC), a device made from PVC pipe and clear plastic sheeting and attached to medical suction and air or oxygen supply creating a small, negative pressure environment around the head and upper torso of the patient. His tireless efforts obtained Emergency Use Approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the device, the only PPE approval granted during the pandemic nationwide.



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Rising Star Award Winner

CDR Qiao Bobo, USPHS

CDR Bobo serves as a Scientist Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, Commissioned Corps, stationed at the US Food and Drug Administration where she has worked for the last four years as a senior level administrator in healthcare administration. Her outstanding work providing oversight to more than 200 biologics manufacturing facilities ensures the safety of the nation's supply of vaccines, biological drugs and medical devices, while her innovations in scientific and regulatory review have accelerated the availability of hundreds of products – including DoD priorities like a freeze-dried plasma and yellow fever vaccine – benefiting millions of American lives. CDR Bobo represents the very best in the United States Public Health Service.



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Research & Development Award Winner

Lt Col Ben Hando, USAF, BSC

Is recognized for his leadership and dedication in standing up the first-ever embedded human performance research entity in the U.S. Air Force and for the research conducted to answer questions that have vexed the Special Warfare Training community for years. He has led the Air Force Physical Therapy and Special Warfare communities to high levels of achievement in the areas of operations research, clinical research, and modernization/development.



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Training & Education Award Winner

MAJ Jose A. Rodriguez, NC, USA

MAJ Rodriguez is recognized throughout the military and federal health services as an expert academic clinician who is shaping practice, policy, and education to improve perioperative care and drive patient safety. He facilitates the movement of critical evidenced based processes and health policy at the local, national and international level and provides the mechanism for boundary spanning inter-professional collaborations. He is a leader who is preparing well-informed nurses who are committed to care for patients and their family members of the armed forces.



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William Gorgas Preventive Medicine Award Winner

LTC Luke Mease, MC, USA

Is recognized for his contributions to Madigan Army Medical Center, Joint Base Lewis McChord, U.S. Army Pacific, and Military Medicine at large. He has made clinical, educational, and research contributions to both the medical and line communities. He developed innovative templates to the DoD electronic medical record which synthesize cutting edge practice, promote high quality care while providing complete documentation. He is a passionate educator and mentor, serving as the core faculty for the Army's only ACGME accredited medical residency in public health/general preventive medicine.

AMSUS is grateful to these individuals who volunteer their time to review and score award submissions. Without their work, the program would not be successful.

Ms. Emily Anozie, MS, Gerontologist & Public Health Analysis HHS

CAPT Hyejeong Bolan, USPHS

CAPT Michelle Brown-Stephenson, USPHS

Col Ralph Charlip, USAF, MSC (Ret)

CDR Matthew Clemons, USPHS

COL Susan Davis, SP, USA

Lt Col Kenneth Hamilton, USAF (Ret)

LCDR Shannon Lowe, USPHS

Col Patricia Nishimoto, AN, USA (Ret)

Mr. Alejandro Ortiz, VA Researcher

LCDR Alister Rubenstein, USPHS

Ms. Elisabeth Ruschmeier, VA/DoD Coordination Office

RADM Fred Sanford, MC, USN (Ret)

CDR Sana Savage, NC, USN

LCDR Carrie Schuler, USPHS

CDR Angela Stanley, NC, USN (Ret)

Ms. Katie Vollmer, DHA Contractor

LCDR Erica Wilkerson, USPHS