Each year, The Ohio State University College of Medicine (OSUCOM) gives its graduating students the opportunity to nominate a member of the faculty who has significantly impacted their training. The Professor of the Year Award is the highest teaching award given within the College of Medicine and marks a career of excellence in academic medicine.

This year’s award goes to an individual who is truly a rising star both in the College and the Medical Center, Dr. C. “Alex” Grieco.

Dr. Grieco grew up in Elmira, New York where his primary hobbies as a child were swimming and singing. He received his undergraduate degree at Bucknell University and then began his medical training at the University of Buffalo. He completed his radiology residency at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and finished his training with a fellowship in MRI at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. When asked why he came to Ohio State, he said that it was an ideal fit; OSU needed an abdominal imager, and he needed a place where he could do what he truly enjoyed, where he would be able to share it with others, and help as many people follow their dreams as possible.

Obviously, he has been wildly successful in achieving these goals. Even more remarkable is that he is one of few faculty members who has integrated himself into every phase of the curriculum. From giving introductory radiology lectures to first- and second-year students to creating, implementing, and innovating the clinical radiology electives for the third- and fourth-year students, he has been able to impart wisdom to nearly every single student at OSUCOM.

Beyond being a ubiquitous presence in the College, he has consistently gone above and beyond what is expected. This is evidenced by the fact that he received greater than 90% of the nominations for this award. An excerpt from one nomination reads “... every teaching session led by Dr. Grieco is guaranteed to have a relaxed and controlled atmosphere that emphasizes the specific take home points that are most valuable for our stage of learning. When our class was stressing about interviews, he offered to meet individually with each of us to do a mock interview and provide valuable, individualized feedback. He is always a pleasure to be around and represents all that The Ohio State University medical community strives to live up to.”

Beyond medicine, Dr. Grieco has a strong interest in music and theater. His musical interests are eclectic, ranging from Tchaikovsky to the Beastie Boys to Nicki Minaj. He has been involved in numerous theatrical productions and says that his favorite roles have been Riff in Westside Story and Link Larkin in Hairspray. He believes these interests have been critical in his development as a healer who delivers humanistic, patient-centered care. He credits his parents for sparking his passion and says that they are his greatest inspiration. Not surprisingly, our professor of the year was raised by two humble, patient, and loving elementary school teachers.
Thank you Dr. Grieco for all that you have done. You have set the bar for what an academic physician should be, and your endless enthusiasm and selflessness are something we will all strive to incorporate into our careers. On behalf of The Ohio State University College of Medicine Class of 2016, we are honored to present Dr. Grieco with the Professor of the Year Award.

_Tejas Sinha_
Class of 2016 President, Student Council