Professor of the Year

D. Joanne Lynn, MD


Since 1931, the senior class of the College of Medicine has awarded a single faculty member with the Professor of the Year Award. As the highest honor a faculty member can earn from the graduating class, the Professor of the Year is given based on the demonstration of excellence in and commitment to teaching and mentoring in medical education. Today, the Class of 2007 is proud to present D. Joanne Lynn, MD, associate professor in the Department of Neurology, with the 2007 Professor of the Year Award.

A Columbus native, Dr. Lynn completed her primary education at the Columbus School for Girls before heading to Amherst College, where she earned bachelor degrees in psychology and in neuroscience. She returned to Columbus for medical school at The Ohio State University and then became double-boarded in Internal Medicine and Neurology following residencies at the University of Rochester. Recipient of a Muscular Dystrophy Association Fellowship Award, Dr. Lynn completed a neuromuscular fellowship at Ohio State in 1992.

Having returned to her Buckeye roots, Dr. Lynn immersed herself wholeheartedly in the worlds of clinical practice and medical education. She became an assistant professor in 1992 while working as a staff neurologist at the OSU Medical Center and as a consulting neurologist with the Twin Valley Psychiatric System. In 1999, Dr. Lynn was promoted to associate professor.

Dr. Lynn cares deeply about educational issues and brings credibility and emphasis to our medical education programs. She is also a wonderful role model for young clinicians in training. In 1994, Dr. Lynn became the neurology module leader for the Med 1 and 2 curricula. In addition to sitting on numerous academic committees and chairing the Student Review Subcommittee, she directs the third-year Neurology Clerkship.

Dr. Lynn is famous for her succinct and relevant neurology reviews prior to examinations and her animated demonstrations of neurological findings. She is the recipient of
several teaching awards from medical students, including the Class of 2007 Integrated Program Teacher of the Year Award and the Distinguished Teaching Award from the Class of 2001. Further, Dr. Lynn has been recognized by colleagues and house staff for her outstanding efforts as an educator, earning the Distinguished Educator Award, American Academy of Neurology Teacher Recognition Certificate in 2002, OSU Department of Neurology Excellence in Teaching Award, and OSU Department of Neurology Teaching Award in 2003, the latter being awarded by residents. She has also been recognized nationally in *Best Doctors* and *Midwest Best Doctors* since 2001.

In addition to her clinical and teaching responsibilities, Dr. Lynn continues her commitment to multiple sclerosis research and to education improvement in neurology at the national level, serving as a member and holding numerous leadership positions within the American Academy of Neurology, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and American Association of Medical Colleges. As a member of the USMLE National Board of Medical Examiners, Dr. Lynn wrote and reviewed questions for the Step 1 and 2 board examinations.

Beyond her dedication to patient care and academia, Dr. Lynn is devoted to her budding teenage daughters, Katherine and Patricia. She has recently found herself acquiescing much of her social time to their busy schedules. Whenever she has the opportunity, though, Dr. Lynn enjoys taking the girls hiking and camping in southern Ohio. Her remaining free time is spent reading, participating in a book club with colleagues and their spouses, playing piano, and practicing aikido. She gives back to her community by speaking on behalf of the local chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Dr. Lynn has been described by our class as “tireless, dedicated, and ever-animated.” She takes the time to explain complex topics and to demonstrate confusing neurological manifestations. Dr. Lynn is also concise and simple where others may be verbose and convoluted. As a clinician, she mentors by example, characterized as “patient, thorough, kind, and compassionate.” Dr. Lynn exemplifies conscientious guidance and personifies commitment, and we genuinely appreciate her efforts.

On behalf of the Class of 2007, I am honored to present Joanne Lynn, M.D. with the Professor of the Year Award.

*Martha Shin-Shang Tzou*
Class of 2007 President