Professor of the Year 2008

Douglas J. Knutson, 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 2008 is proud to present Douglas Knutson, MD, associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine, with the 2008 Professor of the Year Award.

Dr. Knutson completed his undergraduate work at Miami University of Ohio, where he earned bachelor degrees in finance and economics. After graduation, he worked in banking for five years before deciding to pursue a career in medicine. He completed post-baccalaureate work at the University of Cincinnati before coming to medical school at The Ohio State University. Here Dr. Knutson excelled as a medical student. His distinctions included the Department of Pediatrics student award, Ohio Academy of Family Physicians senior student award, and induction into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. Dr. Knutson then completed his residency in family medicine at Riverside Methodist Hospital and worked in private practice for four years before joining OSU as a full-time faculty member in 2000.

Upon returning to OSU, Dr. Knutson devoted himself to his passion for teaching, where his demonstration of compassion and care in medicine has served as a wonderful model for young physicians in training. In 2003, he became director of the Physician Development curriculum, the role for which he is most remembered by medical students. He teaches us in both large and small groups, helping us refine our clinical skills throughout medical school. In addition to his role in teaching medical students, Dr. Knutson sits on numerous academic committees and is also director of the Family Medicine Residency Program. In 2007 he became a tenured associate professor.

Dr. Knutson is famous for introducing us to the physical exam as first- and second-year medical students. He is the recipient of multiple teaching awards from medical students, including Outstanding Teaching Award for Physician Development (2006 and 2007), Outstanding Teaching Award for the Integrated Pathway (2006), Distinguished Educator Award (2004), and Outstanding Teaching Award for Problem-Based Learning (2001). Furthermore, colleagues and house staff have recognized his outstanding efforts as an educator with the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians “Family Medicine Educator of the Year” Award (2007), Family Medicine...
Education Consortium “Mid-Career Faculty Achievement Award” (2005), Department of Family Medicine Residency Program “Family Physician Faculty of the Year” (2004) and “Family Physician Teacher of the Year” (2003). In addition, he is the recipient of the Department of Family Medicine’s “Excellence in Teaching Award” and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Foundation “New Faculty Scholar Award,” both in 2002.

Outside of his dedication to patients and students, one of Dr. Knutson’s favorite pastimes is running. He has run full and half marathons, and his current challenge is to improve his swimming and biking to some day complete a triathlon. He enjoys traveling, particularly for annual winter ski trips. More than anything, Dr. Knutson enjoys spending time with good friends and family.

Dr. Knutson has been described by our class as an enthusiastic, patient, and caring teacher, one who truly invests in our experience as medical students. He guided us through the often-awkward process of mastering the physical exam with warmth and humor. He is always professional without being overbearing and serious. Dr. Knutson often personalized his teachings with stories from his own career and of his mistakes, that we as students might learn and feel more at ease. He demonstrates an attitude toward patients, students, and colleagues that we one day hope to emulate. Dr. Knutson is truly an asset to his patients, the medical school, and to us, the graduating class of 2008.

On behalf of the Class of 2008, I am honored to present Douglas Knutson, MD with the Professor of the Year Award.

Rushyuan Jay Lee
Class of 2008 President