Professor of the Year 2011
David P. Kasick, MD

Since 1931, the senior class of The Ohio State University College of Medicine awards 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 and commitment to teaching and mentoring in medical education. Today, the Class of 2011 is proud to present Dr. David P. Kasick, MD, assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry, with the 2011 Professor of the Year Award.

Dr. Kasick was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio and is the son of James Kasick, a physician, and Sally Kasick, a school teacher. He is also the oldest of three brothers. After high school, Dr. Kasick moved north to complete his undergraduate degree in biology at the University of Michigan in 1998 and then received his MD here at The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 2003. Choosing to stay in Columbus, Dr. Kasick went on to finish a residency in psychiatry at OSU in 2007, also serving as chief resident in his final year.

After joining the College of Medicine in 2007 as faculty in the Department of Psychiatry, Dr. Kasick is now in his fourth year as an attending physician. In addition to his daily clinical responsibilities, he provides leadership as the director of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry for the medical center and also serves as the associate director for the medical student psychiatry clerkship.

While still early in his career, Dr. Kasick has a proven record as a skilled and talented educator and clinician, earning several significant awards. As a resident physician here at Ohio State, Dr. Kasick won the Teaching Excellence Award (2005, 2006), House Staff Humanism Award (2007), and Psychiatry Excellence Award (2007). As an attending, he was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award (2009), Outstanding Faculty Award (2010), and was honored by our class with the Med 3 Outstanding Clinical Teaching Award (2010).

Outside of the hospital, Dr. Kasick enjoys spending time with his family. He is married to Rebecca, who works as a social worker, and has a three year old son, Nicholas. At home he likes to cook, and especially enjoys trying new recipes. He also takes part in other hobbies like gardening and following the sports teams in Cleveland.

More than anything else, though, we know and appreciate Dr. Kasick because of his value as an educator. As the associate director for our psychiatry clerkship, all the medical students have had some interaction with Dr. Kasick during lectures or small group sessions, and we became familiar with his engaging and supportive personality. For those students fortunate enough to work with Dr. Kasick for a month on the psychiatry consult service, these individuals have an even deeper appreciation for the effort and care he places in our development.

Serving as a psychiatry consult physician in the hospital, Dr. Kasick must often ask other doctors,
“What’s the question?” For him to best help the primary team with management, he needs to know why he is being asked to see the patient. This simple inquiry begins the process of developing a shared understanding of the problem. For the Professor of the Year Award, we posed a simple question as well. “Who deserves the honor?” As the students, we provided the answer, giving Dr. Kasick our highest approval and praise. When reading the comments by our class, it is easy to understand why.

In his nominations, we described Dr. Kasick as one of the best clinical professors in the medical center, a clinician that truly cares about his patients, and an educator that places high value on teaching medical students and residents. He will make time each day to teach students how to apply psychiatry to any medical specialty and continually challenges us to develop better patient-management skills and effective communication. Working with Dr. Kasick is an incredible experience because he also takes the extra effort to personalize education for each student, providing for specific wants and needs. He sincerely values the medical student contribution to the team and deserves this award above all others.

Thank you, Dr. Kasick, for being a part of our experience here at the College of Medicine. It is your commitment to excellence and compassionate leadership that serves as an inspiration to us all. On behalf of the Class of 2011, I am honored to present David P. Kasick, MD, with the Professor of the Year Award.

Marty Chun-Yen Tam
President, Class of 2011