

# 2012 Department of Surgery Distinguished Alumni and Special Lifetime Achievement Awards

The Department of Surgery recognizes the professional achievements and humanitarian services of our resident alumni. Each autumn an alumnus is honored with the Department of Surgery Distinguished Alumnus Award. The Award is presented during the Henry N. Harkins Society Annual Meeting and Banquet, which is the culminating event of the Strauss and Harkins annual events. This year those events took place on Friday, October 12, 2012.

Any physician who has completed his or her residency or fellowship training at the UW Department of Surgery is eligible for nomination. Harkins Society members are solicited on an annual basis to submit nominations of those who deserve recognition.

Nominations are based upon professional or humanitarian contributions that have enhanced the surgical profession, improved the welfare of the general public, or brought distinction to the department. These contributions may have been made either over a long period of time or may be a single outstanding achievement – both academic and non-academic achievements are eligible.

Our 15th Distinguished Alumni are **Dr. Karen Guice** and **Dr. Keith Oldham**.

This marks the first time the award has ever been given to two awardees at the same time. It seemed fitting to give the award to both of them since they met while completing their residency programs at UW and began their personal and professional lives here. Together and individually, they are well-recognized leaders in the profession of surgery. Dr. John Waldhausen, one of the nominators, stated in his letter of nomination: “It is a pleasure to recommend both Dr. Oldham and Dr. Guice for the Distinguished Alumni Award. Their professional achievements as well as humanitarian service to society are outstanding, and I believe both very ably embody the attributes that this award commemorates.” We are indeed proud of their accomplishments and take pride in the distinction they bring to the Department as former residents.



**Dr. Keith Oldham**

Dr. Oldham completed his general surgical training at University of Washington Department of Surgery in 1981 and then his pediatric surgical fellowship at the Children’s Hospital Medical Center of Cincinnati. He became a Professor of Surgery at

Duke University, where he was also Chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery from 1991 to 1998. Currently, he is Professor and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin, one of the most prominent divisions of pediatric surgery in the country. He holds the Marie Z. Uihlein Chair of Pediatric Surgery, is the Surgeon-in-Chief and Clinical Vice President of Surgery at the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin.

Dr. Oldham has served in leadership positions on the Pediatric Surgery Board of the American Board of Surgery and other national pediatric surgery associations and authored and edited seven textbooks and more than 100 articles related to pediatric surgery. His interests and expertise reflect a broad range of thoracic and general pediatric surgery. Throughout his career, he has had significant research grant support, and currently has one of the most sought-after fellowships in the country.

His professional and personal accomplishments are legendary. He has been integral to the development of the American College of Surgery’s National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) for pediatric surgery. With a group of international pediatric surgeons, he coordinated trips to the remote Amazonian jungle in Yantalo, Peru, to provide surgical care for infants and children. He still takes call, he has run more marathons than imaginable and he recently climbed Denali with one of his sons.



**Dr. Karen Guice**

Dr. Guice graduated from the UW Department of Surgery Residency Program in 1982 and also went to the Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati for a research fellowship in the Department of Pediatric Surgery.

Her post-training academic career began in Galveston, Texas. From Galveston she went to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan and then to Duke University, where she became a Professor of Surgery. In addition to her surgical duties, she received a Master’s degree in Public Policy at Duke. Following this, she moved to the Medical College of Wisconsin as a clinical Professor of Surgery.

Karen was keenly interested in health care policy and this led her to Washington, DC. She became Health Policy Advisor for the US Senate Labor and Human Resources

Committee. She then moved to the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs, where she is today.

Karen has served as the Executive Director of the Federal Recovery Coordination Program for the Department of Veteran Affairs and the Co-Chair for the Recovering Warrior Task Force for the Department of Defense. She is now the Principal Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; Principal Deputy for TRICARE Management Activity and the Acting CIO for the Military Health System. In short, she is one of the most senior administrators responsible for the health and well-being of our country's soldiers and their families.

Dr. Guice is a member of several professional societies and was elected President of the Association of Academic Surgery in 1993. She received the Association of Women Surgeons Distinguished Member Award in 1999 and the W.W. Coon Surgical Residents Award for Teaching Excellence at the University of Michigan in 1988. In 1993, she received the Outstanding Alumna Award from the College of Arts and Sciences at New Mexico State University. She received an award for Outstanding Achievement from the office of the Secretary of Defense in 2007 for her work on the President's Commission, and received a Commendation from the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2009.

Five former recipients were in attendance at the Harkins Banquet: Drs. **Ron Maier** (2005), **John Waldhausen** (2007), **Mika Sinanan** (2008), **David Byrd**, (2009), **Hugh Foy** (2010) and **Michael Florence** (2011).

### Lifetime Achievement Award

The Harkins dinner events included a "Lifetime Achievement Award," presented to Dr. Carlos Pellegrini, by **Ted Kohler, MD** Vascular Surgeon (VA) and president of the Harkins' Society, on behalf of the Harkins Society. The Award was given "in grateful recognition of dedicated leadership, outstanding professional achievements and humanitarian services to society."

#### Dr. Paul Ramsey's Remarks

Paul Ramsey, MD, CEO, UW Medicine and Dean of the School of Medicine, spoke about the tremendous role Dr. Pellegrini has played in the School of Medicine, praising him for his leadership over the past 20 years. He noted that "Carlos' commitment to the success and well-being of each person with whom he interacts helps to build a thoughtful, cohesive and collaborative community that maximizes

each person's contributions. His willingness and ability to listen to and to assimilate different perspectives makes UW Medicine and our world a better place."

Following presentation of this award, **Karen Horvath, MD**, Professor, General Surgery and Associate Chair of Education, read a moving tribute from Dr. Haile T. Debas, MD, University of California, San Francisco Former Dean of UCSF School of Medicine & Executive Director of UCSF Global Health Sciences, former colleague and mentor of Dr. Pellegrini. (Dr. Debas was unable to attend the event):

"Knowing Carlos Pellegrini and having him as a close friend is one of the great privileges of my life. He is a great force of optimism and companionship with rare sense of humor and communication skills.

"In 1992, the University of Washington began the recruitment of its new Chair of Surgery, I knew that Carlos was the man and suggested him to the search committee who quickly saw what a winner they had found. Over the years, I have felt somewhat smug in the knowledge that I made a great contribution to UW in helping recruit Carlos.

"He never fails to inspire me or leave me happier each time I meet him and this phenomenon leads me to quote the words of Claude Bissell, the Former President of the University of Toronto, which aptly describe Carlos: 'Risk more than others think is safe, care more than others think is wise, dream more than others think is practical, expect more than others think is possible.'"

In addition to the distinguished alumni presentations and other festivities, the Society welcomed new members, the current Chief Residents, to the Harkins' Society:

Drs. Shahram Aarabi, Dante Conley, Giana Davidson, Andre Ilbawi, Arjun Jayaraj, Jonathan Kohler, Katherine Moreno and Samantha Quade.

The Harkins Society engages in fund-raising in order to buy Loupes for residents. It has been customary for the Department to pay half of the cost of Loupes, with the residents paying the other half. Because of the generosity of Harkins Society members in this past year, the resident portion has been defrayed for 10 pairs of Loupes.

Sincere thanks to members of the Society who have donated to this effort. For more information on the Harkins Society, please contact Dr. Ted Kohler at kohler@uw.edu.