

UIC COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
College Committee on Faculty Awards
Annual Report 2020-2021

The College Committee on Faculty Awards is charged with ensuring that faculty excellence is reflected in competition for academic awards. The Committee disseminates information about internal faculty awards, actively solicits nominations for such awards and, where appropriate, makes award nominations which are forwarded to the Dean.

The College Committee on Faculty Awards met in February and in March of this year to review nominations for the *University Scholars* award and for the *COM Faculty of the Year* award.

The *University Scholars* Award is a campus program which provides a three-year award to faculty members who have demonstrated superior performance in scholarly activities in both research and teaching and who show great promise for future achievements. The Committee reviewed nine College of Medicine nominations for the *University Scholars* award, and made recommendations to the Dean for submission to the University under this year's awards cycle. Of these, Heather Prendergast from the COM at Chicago's Department of Emergency Medicine received the University Scholar award.

The *Faculty of the Year* award is a college-wide honor which recognizes faculty excellence in a variety of areas including: special achievement in University leadership or national/regional society organization; receipt of a prestigious national recognition that reflects positively on the College of Medicine; outstanding teaching, clinical or research performance; and special effectiveness in curriculum or instructional material development. The Committee reviewed the four nominations put forward for this year's *Faculty of the Year* award. After careful consideration, the Committee recommended two awardees for this recognition: Dr. Evelyn Figueroa from the COM at Chicago's Department of Family and Community Medicine and Dr. Olusola Ajilore from the COM at Chicago's Department of Psychiatry. Both awardees were recognized by Dean Rosenblatt at the 2021 Virtual Commencement Ceremony.

The Faculty Awards Committee continued its efforts to encourage nominations for these awards by posting announcements on the College's Faculty Affairs website, soliciting nominations from college leadership, and asking department heads and regional deans to broadly disseminate announcements to faculty in their units.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrinalini Rao, Ph.D.
Chair, College Committee on Faculty Awards