

NEWS RELEASE

2011 Community Service Awards, Durham Orange County Medical Society

December 19, 2011

For Immediate Release:

**Unsung Volunteer Heroes of Durham and Orange Counties Recognized**

The Durham-Orange County Medical Society presented Jerry Nance Community Service Awards to five recipients at the Society's monthly meeting on December 14, 2011. The award recognizes the unsung volunteer heroes in Durham and Orange Counties who have not had prior recognition and meaningfully improve the health and well being in these counties. The Award includes a framed certificate with \$250 check. The award categories includes students, medical residents, non-physicians and physicians and seeks to recognize unsung volunteer heroes of Durham and Orange counties who have not had prior recognition for their volunteer work.

Winner in the student category of the 2011 Jerry Nance Community Service Award:

**Kaitlin Rawluk, M.P.H.**, is a fourth year medical student at Duke University School of Medicine who values volunteerism and it shows. Ms. Rawluk has worked with the Ronald McDonald House as a volunteer coordinator for over two years, served as a counselor at Camp Kaleidoscope, a camp for children with chronic disease run by Duke Children's Hospital and performed monthly clinic responsibilities in a rural free clinic in Fremont, NC. Ms. Rawluk also conducted a research project in Honduras in 2010 looking at why patients do or do not come to clinic to deliver their infants.

Winner in the non-physician category of the 2011 Jerry Nance Community Service Award:

**Gregory Ruskan, P.T.**, was recognized for his hard work and dedication at the Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers (TROSA) program and their residents in Durham. Mr. Ruskan established a regular weekly physical therapy clinic at TROSA in February 2009. From early 2009 to early 2011 Mr. Ruskan worked a full day in his regular job, yet consistently and enthusiastically volunteered on his own time to offer a physical therapy clinic at TROSA approximately 3 out of 4 weeks every month. Beyond continuing to serve in the clinician rotation, Mr. Ruskan coordinates the monthly clinical schedule of physical therapists, acquiring physical therapy equipment and materials to enhance the clinic, working to create an educational experience for Duke OPT students at TROSA.

Co-winners in the physician category of the 2011 Jerry Nance Community Service Award:

**Rollin Burhans, M.D.** a community-service veteran who has served in numerous volunteer, short term medical missions in following countries such as Gaza in the Middle East, Bangladesh, India, Poland, Ukraine, South Africa, Rwanda, Thailand, Zambia. They have served missions in China, an astounding 22 times. He also has a planned medical mission trip to India in February 2012. Dr. Burhans has devoted most of his time over the last two years helping to develop the “Senior Health Support Group”- (a coalition of health-care professionals helping Seniors of Durham navigate the health-care system). Dr. Rollins also volunteers with “The Second Mile Ministry of Grey Stone Baptist Church” that provides financial, food and clothing assistance to the people of Durham in need.

**Howard Eisenson, M.D.**, was recognized as a leader with a tireless, selfless dedication to expanding access to care in Durham. As a founding leader at Project Access Durham County (PADC), Dr. Eisenson’s leadership has been pivotal to the organization’s success in bringing specialty care to Durham’s neediest citizens. He currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors at PADC and spear-headed the Durham-Orange County Medical Society participation in PADC. Dr. Eisenson has also helped to recruit physicians to donate hundreds of encounters to the uninsured patients in PADC. In addition, Dr. Eisenson has also volunteered his services for the last 10 years providing primary care to the residents at the Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers (TROSA) medical clinic.

**Ron Olson, M.D.** was honored for his leadership as the volunteer medical director of the Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers (TROSA) medical clinic since 2005. Dr. Olson has also networked effectively with other medical resources in the Durham community - Lincoln Community Health Center, Project Access, Triangle Orthopedic Associates, among others, to help provide access to much needed services for TROSA residents.

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Extended biographies for Award recipients are available upon request.