The Nicholas M. Greene, M.D., Outstanding Humanitarian Contribution Award will be conferred on Dr. Elizabeth Frost at ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2019 in Orlando. The award was created in honor of the late Nicholas M. Greene, M.D., who founded the ASA Overseas Teaching Program (OTP) in 1991. The OTP was renamed the Committee on Global Humanitarian Outreach in 2008, and the first Nicholas M. Greene Award was bestowed upon Dr. Phil Bridenbaugh in 2010 – a past chair of the ASA OTP.

This year, as in years past, the GHO Committee entertained multiple meritorious nominations for the prestigious award. Subcommittee members, led by Dr. Cheryl Gooden, were again tasked to adjudicate which nominee had the greatest impact on global humanitarian outreach during the course of their careers. Dr. Elizabeth Frost will be the ninth anesthesiologist to receive the award.

"From the time I was young, I liked to help the injured." Thus, started the medical career of Dr. Frost. She grew up on the corner of a street in a Glaswegian suburb that was bereft of stop signs, which resulted in frequent accidents that she sped to assist. These events helped propel her to complete medical school in Glasgow before travelling to the U.S. to complete her anesthesia residency at New York Hospital/Cornell University in New York City in 1966. Excited by the drama of neurosurgery – having witnessed an enraged surgeon throw a knife at an anesthesiologist (he ducked) – Elizabeth embarked on a career in neuroanesthesia, rising to the rank of professor at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine by 1980. She went on to become Chair of Anesthesiology at New York Medical College (1992-2000) and then to the Icahn Medical Center at Mount Sinai. She retired from clinical practice in 2016.

Worthy of note, during this largely New York City-based career, Dr. Frost travelled and taught anesthesia extensively around the world. She realized early, when visiting a European society meeting some 30 years ago, that many international anesthetists would benefit from traveling to the annual New York-based Post Graduate Assembly (PGA):

"Several anesthesiologists came to talk to me and said how much they wanted to go to the PGA but could not afford it. They felt that anesthesia in the U.S. must be so far above what they had access to. I rather doubted that as I had already seen how anesthesia worked, especially in the Middle East with Professor Anaka Baraka and in the Pacific rim. So, I began to think how I could start a program that would foster the ability to let these folks..."
realize that what they had was often working for them, but could be improved ... not necessarily with extremely expensive machines.”

Dr. Frost, in her characteristic fashion of putting thoughts into action, established a non-profit – the Anesthesiology Foundation of New York – to make the PGA Scholarship Program a possibility. This paved the way for 430 participants from 66 countries to take advantage of the second largest annual anesthesia meeting in the U.S.*

Garnering accomplishments throughout her career, Dr. Frost became President of the Trauma and Critical Care Society and Chairman of both the New York Postgraduate Assembly and the New York Academy of Medicine Section on Anesthesiology, while receiving two Distinguished Service Awards from the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists and the Society for Neuroscience in Anesthesiology and Critical Care.

For all the work that Dr. Frost has done in improving safe anesthesia care around the world, the ASA GHO Committee is justly proud to name her the 2019 Nicholas M. Greene, M.D. Outstanding Humanitarian Contribution Award recipient.

*With help from the NYSSA and Mr. Stuart Hayman.