The Nicholas M. Greene Outstanding Humanitarian Award

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Last month the ASA presented its first Nicholas M. Greene Outstanding Humanitarian Award at the ASA Annual Meeting in Chicago. This award recognizes the global outreach of the ASA and its membership and was created by the Board of Directors in March 2011. Phillip O. Bridenbaugh, M.D. was the first recipient of this award.

The Humanitarian Award honors lifelong volunteer, teacher and humanitarian Dr. Nicholas M. Greene (1922-2004). It was Dr. Greene’s vision, dedication and persistence that created the ASA Overseas Teaching Program (OTP) (1990-2010), and it was his leadership that fostered the “teach the teacher” programs in Africa. The creation of the OTP was not without controversy as, in its initial format, the program was a two-year program teaching technicians to deliver a safe anesthetic in their home countries of Tanzania and Ghana, whose populations were then served by only one anesthesiologist in each country. The program has evolved and still exists today in Rwanda with the support of the ASA, the Canadian Society of Anesthesiologists and the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists.

Dr. Phillip Bridenbaugh chaired the ASA OTP Committee from 1999 through 2008 and fostered the program through his personal commitment to teaching and collaborating. Dr. Bridenbaugh, ASA President in 1997, has had a long, distinguished career. An international authority in regional anesthesia, he is a prolific author and teacher, having served as Professor and Chair of Anesthesiology at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He chairs the WFSA Foundation and has fostered the educational collaboration between the WFSA and the OTP.

We are proud to honor both Drs. Bridenbaugh and Greene with this much-deserved recognition. Many nominations were received, and many deserving of this award were recommended by their peers and the organizations they have served. This award seeks to recognize ASA members with long-term commitments to volunteerism in resource-poor settings or disasters, dedication to international anesthesia education, contribution to the humanitarian aid and disaster literature, or contributions to the international relief community through innovation, technology, scholarship or unique personal sacrifice.

The vision and commitment of Drs. Greene and Bridenbaugh live on through the Committee on Global Humanitarian Outreach (GHO) www.asahq.org/gho. The ASA GHO remains committed to education, training and collaboration and has broadened the ASA’s vision of global outreach by supporting service delivery through volunteerism.

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disaster relief through rapid communication and collaboration with non-governmental organizations, and by encouraging the global activities of residents, fellows and ASA members.

Nominations will be solicited annually for the Nicholas M. Greene Outstanding Humanitarian Award. Nominations will be maintained and reviewed by the GHO. For more information on the award, and to make nominations for future recipients, please visit the Global Humanitarian Outreach website www.asahq.org/GHO/History.aspx.