



The Arnold P. Gold Foundation Fostering Humanism in Medicine

Winter 2004

Philanthropist Recognizes Humanistic Doctors Leonard Tow Honored



From Left: Dr. Elizabeth Murphy Fitelson '03, Leonard Tow, Dr. Arnold P. Gold and Dr. William Lovejoy, clinical professor of medicine at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons Commencement Awards Presentation, May 2003.

With a surprise birthday gift to Leonard Tow, his family has secured the future of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards. These awards are presented annually to a graduating medical student and outstanding role-model faculty member at nearly 80 of the 126 U.S. medical schools.

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation initiated the awards in 1991 at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons to recognize those who excel at patient care as well as in science.

A Living Tribute

In 2003, the awards were renamed the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards and endowed with a three million dollar gift to The Gold Foundation in honor of Leonard Tow's exemplary leadership and commitment to fostering social justice, innovative medical research and humanism in medicine. At the Columbia P & S 2003 commencement, Dean Gerald Fischbach presented the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Guardian of Humanism in Medicine Award to Leonard Tow for his role in perpetuating the Humanism in Medicine Awards throughout the nation.

Tow, a life-long student and teacher, is Chairman and CEO of Citizens Communications, a noted philanthropist, educator, media pioneer and humanist. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and an Honorary Doctorate from Brooklyn College, Master of Arts and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University, and has taught at Columbia, Hunter and Brooklyn Colleges and New York University. Mr. Tow serves on the Boards of several arts and cultural organizations, including Lincoln Center Theatres, American Ballet Theatre and Young Concert Artists. A role model for many, Leonard Tow has lived his life demonstrating great compassion and empathy for others. These awards are a living tribute to the life and career of Leonard Tow.

Fifteen Years of Advancing Compassionate Care

Fifteen years ago, The Arnold P. Gold Foundation began its work to nurture and preserve the tradition of the caring physician. The programs we create and support are designed to influence the way a physician is educated from the first day of medical school through residency and entrance into the hospital culture. Students and faculty at more than 93% of the nation's 145 schools of medicine and osteopathy, as well as at schools abroad, are involved in at least one of our 26 programs. In 2003, the Foundation provided more than a million dollars for program services thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors. Highlights include:

The Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) is proliferating on campuses throughout the country. In just three years, close to one-third of our nation's medical schools have or are in the process of establishing a chapter to honor fourth-year medical students, residents and faculty members who are exemplars of humanistic patient care. We received a third significant grant to support the GHHS from our visionary funding partner, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The White Coat Ceremony (WCC), a rite of passage for beginning medical students, which focuses on caring for the patient, was created by The Gold Foundation and established first at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Since 1993, 135 medical schools in the U.S. and abroad have instituted this Gold Foundation signature program, or similar event.



Newly cloaked students at The New Jersey Medical School Barbara and Norman Seiden White Coat Ceremony.

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Jonathan's Legacy

Jonathan Efram Aronson was an extraordinary man. During his 17-year battle with brain cancer, he miraculously maintained his captivating sense of humor. Jonathan used this humor to cheer and help others through their most difficult times. He brought smiles and support to all – from toddlers to seniors. He will be missed.



Jonathan's devoted and extended family, his many friends and The Gold Foundation, are honoring his memory through the creation of the *Jonathan Aronson Memorial Fund for the Doctor Patch Adams Medical Clown Scholarship*. This fund will enable selected medical students to participate in a Patch Adams Healing Through Humor Mission by including clowning in their method of treatment. This new fund, Jonathan's legacy, will bring the precious gift of laughter to children and their families.

According to medical student Patricia Geyer, who wrote about her remarkable experience touring in Russia with Patch Adams in 2003: "I was able to be a part of this amazing humanitarian effort and I received the redirection I needed to work towards becoming the kind of physician every person deserves."

Join us in making this scholarship possible by contributing to the Jonathan Aronson Memorial Fund.

15 Years of Advancing Compassionate Care

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Student Summer Fellowships for Research in Community Health Issues afforded students from 16 schools of medicine an opportunity to investigate community health and cultural competency issues thanks to the Mellam Family Foundation and others. Sample projects included: "Ability of primary care physicians to effectively treat developmentally disabled adults"; "Effect of parental diabetic status on management of his/her child"; and "Patient and physician perspectives on obesity in rural Kansas."

Student, Faculty and Resident Initiated Grants for Promoting Humanism were funded at 10 schools and teaching hospitals for 13 diverse projects. They included: developing effective strategies for teaching human values to surgeons in training; use of an innovative "life-review" interview method to help teach third year students about understanding the whole patient; and studying the effects of condolence letters on the resident physician and the deceased patient's family.

Caring Hospital Communities (CHC) programs include model residency education programs focusing on communication skills and cultural competency at New Jersey teaching hospitals and the *CHC Resource Center* on the Gold Foundation's website: www.humanism-in-medicine.org at which innovative and humanistic hospital environments are profiled. *CHC* receives significant funding from the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey.

Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards were presented to 120 role-model residents during *Student Clinician's Ceremonies* for third year students beginning their hospital rotations at 21 medical schools with help from the Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation.

Dr. Steve Miller congratulates third year medical students at Student Clinician's Ceremony at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons.



A National Symposium on the "Barriers to Sustaining Humanism in Medicine" convened 50 Deans and other experts in medical education in 2003 to focus on *Overcoming the Barriers: Enhancing the Culture of Medical Education, Assessing Humanistic Growth and Mission*. The consensus of the participants was that humanism can and should be assessed and peer nomination tools are valid and reliable.

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