**2024 Alumni Reunion: Award Nominations**

**Alumni Achievement Award** **–**The award is given to an alumnus who made significant medical contributions to the welfare of the profession and mankind.

**Alumni Service Award –**The award was established in 1994 to recognize alumni who provide exceptional service and leadership to the Alumni Association – College of Medicine for the SUNY Downstate Medical Center.

**Alumni Social Justice Award (ASJA)**- This inaugural award will be given annually to an alumnus, previous or current SUNY Downstate faculty member. The recipient’s life should embody a commitment to social justice and mitigating bias within the medical school or surrounding community.

**Babbot Award** **–**The award, named after Dr. Frank L. Babbott, recognizes alumni with distinguished service to both the medical profession and the general community.

**Clarence & Mary Dennis Dedicated Service Award** **­–** The award was established in 1996 to recognize those who have made outstanding contributions and significant commitments to the SUNY Downstate Medical Center and the Brooklyn community.

**Clark-Curran Award in Medical Administration**– The award is given to an alumnus/a for leadership and achievement in medical administration.

**Honorary Alumnus/Alumnae** **–** The designation goes to a SUNY Downstate faculty member who did not graduate from Downstate, but should be honored with the title.

**Master Teacher Award** – The award is given to an alumnus for excellence in medical teaching in an academic setting for more than 20 years (most often a Professor or Departmental leader). Please list specialty.

Departmental Recognition Award**-** This award recognizes a department or institute within SUNY Downstate, that provides support to the Alumni Association, medical student body at large and prioritizes health equity in its objectives.

**Alumni Achievement Medallion for Distinguished Service to American Medicine** – This is the highest award given by the Alumni Association and is awarded to an alumnus who has brought distinction to their name and SUNY Downstate College of Medicine through significant contributions to the welfare of mankind.

Please fill out the form below and provide a letter supporting your nomination. Detail the individual’s leadership or service history, personal characteristics, and professional achievements. Candidates with no supporting documents (at least one paragraph) will not be considered for an award.  Use one copy of this form for each candidate.

**NOMINATION #1 – Dr. Neal Lewin**

**Award: Master Teacher Award**

**Nominated by: Selin Sagalowsky**

On behalf of the Ronald O. Perelman Department of Emergency Medicine at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine, I am honored to nominate **Dr. Neal Lewin (Class of 1974) for the Master Teacher Award.** Please find a letter of recommendation (attached) and details as requested below. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or for clarifications. Thank you!

**Candidate name: Dr. Neal Lewin**

Class Year: 1974

**Award: Master Teacher Award**

Address: 148 East 38th Street

City: New York     State: NY      ZIP:  10583

Phone: 914.391.9661

Email: [Neal.Lewin@nyulangone.org](mailto:Neal.Lewin@nyulangone.org)

Candidate’s current occupation, title: Neal A. Lewin,MD FACEP,FACP,FACMT

Druckenmiller Professor of Emergency Medicine and Professor of Medicine (Pharmacology)

Director of Didactic Education

Emergency Medicine Residency

NYU Grossman School of Medicine

**NOMINATION #2 – Dr. Cynthia McKay '77**

**Award: Alumni Achievement**

**Nominated by: Dr. Cynthia McKay '77**

Candidate name: \_\_\_Cynthia Johnson MacKay\_M.D.

Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_1977\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Award: \_\_\_\_\_\_Alumni Achievement\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_8 Stonefalls Court\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City:\_\_\_Rye Brook\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State:\_\_N.Y.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ZIP:   \_\_\_\_10573\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_917-796-4050\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_cjmeyemd@gmail.com\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Candidate’s current occupation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_retired ophthalmologist\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Title: M. D.

Doctor MacKay is a retired Clinical  Professor of Ophthalmology at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center.  She has spent decades investigating and exposing the LASIK surgeons who put profit before health, in collusion with the FDA Agents and their Commissioners. They have caused many thousands of patients to be harmed, and, in too many cases, to commit suicide.

LASIK, a cosmetic eye operation, has an unacceptable risk of devastating complications that are concealed by the very doctors and government officials that are trained, employed and elected to keep us safe.

**Film: “Broken Eyes”** -This anti-LASIK documentary was made by Doctor MacKay, who is the Executive Producer, and Dana Conroy, a PBS filmmaker and a victim of LASIK Surgery herself.

They are proud to have their film accepted by the SoHo Film Festival. Out of thousands of films, Broken Eyes is one of twelve selected to feature at the festival. “Broken Eyes” tells an inspiring story: “When Lasik eye surgery destroys a filmmaker’s vision, she decides to make amovie about it. What starts out as an attempt to hang onto her lifelong passion turns into a harrowing investigation into a multibillion industry and the discovery of an underground networkof thousands of patients permanently scarred by Lasik, the so-called safest elective surgery onthe market”.

 Broken Eyes will be shown at the SoHo International Film Festival on Wednesday September 18, 2024, at 5:45 PM in Theatre Two at Village East by Angelika, 181-189 2nd Avenue and 12th Street, New York City.

**Books:**

**The Unsightly Truth of Laser Vision Correction** - Doctor MacKay is a coauthor and the financier of this book, an astonishing record of blatant profiteering and corruption, as told by the former FDA Chief Morris Waxler, who was responsible for approving the LASIK procedure.

Later, he discovered the lies he was told and the harm that unfolded. You will hear directly from Paula Cofer, a LASIK Surgery victim and lifelong campaigner to stop the deadly practice, and many other victims. You will read accounts from Doctor MacKay and Doctor Edward Boshnick,who have personally cared for damaged patients.

**Making the Cut** - in this memoir Doctor MacKay charts the challenges she faced tobecome one of America’s first female Eye Surgeons.The memoir sets out her route from discovery to activist, the obstacles, smear campaigns, threats and much more. It is a book that every citizen of the world should read

Both books are now available across the globe on Amazon.

Cynthia Johnson MacKay, MD

Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, Columbia Presbyterian College of Physicians and Surgeons, Emeritus

8 Stone Falls Court, Rye Brook, N.Y. 10573

cell: 917-796-4050

home: 914-967-2991

**Nomination #3 --** **Dr. Rishi Malhotra '04**

**Award: Alumni Achievement**

**Nominated by: Linda Nicoll, MD**

Phone: 718-920-5440

Email: Rishi.Malhotra@gmail.com

Candidate’s current occupation, title: Associate Professor of Neurology, Medicine and Neurological Surgery, Director of Neurocritical Care, Director of the Neuroscience ICU and Director of the Neurocritical Care Fellowship at Montefiore Einstein

Rishi Malhotra, MD, is Director of Neurocritical Care, Director of the Neuroscience ICU and Director of the Neurocritical Care Fellowship, as well as Associate Professor of Neurology, Medicine and Neurological Surgery at Montefiore Einstein. Dr. Malhotra’s clinical focus includes the critical care management of subarachnoid hemorrhage, intracerebral hemorrhage, traumatic brain injury, acute spinal cord injury, ischemic stroke, status epilepticus, brain tumors, neuromuscular respiratory failure and central nervous system infections.

A graduate of the combined BA/MD program at Brooklyn College, Dr. Malhotra completed his Doctor of Medicine with State University of New York - Downstate Medical Center in 2004. After completing his internal medicine internship at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital in 2005, Dr. Malhotra completed his three-year neurology residency at Columbia University Medical Center in 2008. He then pursued a neurocritical care fellowship at Columbia University Medical Center and Weill Cornell Medical Center, which he completed in 2010.

Dr. Malhotra’s scholarly interests include intracerebral hemorrhage, hypoxic-ischemic brain injury and status epilepticus. He has shared his work through peer-reviewed journals, books, abstracts and poster presentations.

Dr. Malhotra is board certified in Neurology and Neurocritical Care. He is a member of the Neurocritical Care Society.

**Nomination #4 - Dr. Veronica Ades '04**

**Award: Alumni Achievement**

**Nominated by: Linda Nicoll, MD**

Phone: 718 783 3085

Email: [Veronica.Ades@nyulangone.org](mailto:Veronica.Ades@nyulangone.org)

*Candidate’s current occupation, title: Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Director of Global Women’s Health at the New York University School of Medicine*

Veronica Ades, MD, MPH is a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist. She completed her Doctor of Medicine degree at the State University of New York at Downstate in Brooklyn, NY, and a Master’s degree in Public Health with a concentration in Quantitative Methods at the Harvard School of Public Health. She completed residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at the Albert Einstein School of Medicine in the Bronx, NY, and a fellowship in Reproductive Infectious Disease at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Ades also completed a Certificate in Comparative Effectiveness at the NYU School of Medicine. Dr. Ades has worked with Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders on assignments in Aweil, South Sudan in 2012 and 2016 and in Irbid, Jordan in 2013.  
‍  
Dr. Ades is an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Director of Global Women’s Health at the New York University School of Medicine. Her clinical work is at the New York Harbor VA, Gouverneur Health, and Bellevue Hospital. She is the Founder and Director of the EMPOWER Clinic for Survivors of Sex Trafficking and Sexual Violence at Gouverneur Health on the Lower East Side. Dr. Ades conducts research on sexual- and gender-based violence and trauma, and runs the Empower Lab at NYU.

**Nomination #5 - Dr. Carla Boutin-Foster '94**

**Award: Social Justice Award**

**Nominated by: Richard Sadovksy**

Dr. Carla  Boutin-Foster, Class of 1994, for the 2024 Social Justice Award. Dr. Boutin-Foster serves SUNY-Downstate currently as the Vice-President for Institutional Equity. In this role, she is involved in numerous qualifying activities within the school, among our patient population, and in society at larger. I will discuss her qualifications, trying not to be repetitive, as her CV shows her work in the field of Social Justice in detail. Dr. Boutin-Foster has received numerous awards for her community outreach efforts and her funded grant activities as either the Principal Investigator or Investigator demonstrate a dedication to academics and increasing the practical knowledge about social issues and injustices as well as training health workers at all educational levels about this field. She is actively involved in the TRANSPORT program, which is well-funded and brings minority researchers to Downstate to join appropriate Downstate candidates to perform research. The goals of this program include increasing diversity among medical researchers. Dr. Boutin-Foster's list of publications clearly shows an interest in social justice and resolving the problems of patients with decreased access to care.

Just as important, Dr. Boutin-Foster is the informal advisor to many, if not the majority, of minority students at our school. She is the Co-Director of the Health Disparities Pathway, a longitudinal elective for students interested in learning more and becoming engaged in some of the solutions to decrease health disparities. In addition to working with medical students, Dr. Boutin-Foster has engaged high school and college students in our community about health care issues and careers with the goal to encourage more minority students to enter a health care field.

I continue to be active in several Downstate College of Medicine committees, some of which are involved directly with students. Dr. Boutin-Foster's name is brought up frequently by students as a mentor and confidant helping both minority students and others to fulfill their goals of completing medical school. I know that the leaders of or College's Academic Education Group have great respect for Dr. Boutin-Foster's efforts and consider her a major asset in keeping minority students engaged and working to surmount any barriers they may face while completing their medical education. In addition, Dr. Boutin-Foster has facilitated many of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity conversations that have occurred among the entire Downstate community during the past few years.

Dr. Carla Boutin-Foster is dedicated to Social Justice and has shown this with words and action within our school, our community, and the larger health care and general societies. She is a leader in this field and is a strong candidate for the 2024 Alumni Association Social Justice Award. I have attached a CV to this note.

**Nomination #6 - Dr. Theodore Hanley '89**

**Award: Pending confirmation**

**Nominated by: Pending confirmation**