



# Society for Pediatric Research

## *Douglas K. Richardson Award for Perinatal & Pediatric Healthcare Research - 2010*

This award is established in perpetuity to honor the contributions of the late Dr. Douglas K. Richardson to children's health services research and the Society for Pediatric Research. This award, established in 2003, honors the lifetime achievement of an investigator who has made substantive contributions in any of the following areas: (1) the effective use of health services; (2) the identification of risk factors for adverse outcomes; (3) general epidemiologic health services studies; or (4) patient oriented clinical studies that lead to improved health care delivery to the neonatal or pediatric populations. The award is open to pediatric health services researchers of any specialty.

Dr. Richardson was best known for his research on neonatal illness severity and variations in neonatal clinical practice. This work stems from previous observations showing a four-to-eight-fold variation in birth-weight specific mortality rates, and rates of neonatal complications such as chronic lung disease. This variation is not explained by differences in the demographic characteristics of the patient populations. Thus, the variation is likely due to some combination of differences such as an unmeasured severity of illness or acuity on admission, or clinical practice. Before these issues could be addressed, it was necessary to develop an instrument to measure admission severity. To this end, Doug developed the Score for Neonatal Acute Physiology (SNAP). The importance of this instrument is that it measures the severity of illness based on deviation of measures of physiologic function, rather than subjective clinical assessments. This tool was validated by exhaustive testing and was shown to have excellent predictive power for both mortality and morbidity independent of birth weight. SNAP, and subsequent refinements of this instrument, have been used by multiple investigators to study numerous risk factors and interventions in the neonatal intensive care setting. For example this instrument was used to examine the outcomes of several academic NICUs and demonstrated that substantial variations in practice style affected most types of morbidity experienced by very low birth weight infants.

The importance of this work cannot be overstated. In an era of intense competition in cost containment, addressing the effectiveness of medical, especially technologically intensive care, is critical. The availability of the severity score permits the identification of units with the best practices, fosters more rational decision making about initiating or withdrawing care, and provides a critical tool for the design of more effective randomized trials.

In addition to Doug's research endeavors, he was an outstanding clinician and mentor for numerous senior faculty, neonatal fellows, and students in the Harvard Medical School community. Doug was a consummate physician-scientist who demonstrated excellence in teaching, education, and research.

### **CRITERIA FOR THE DOUGLAS K. RICHARDSON AWARD**

- To be eligible for the 2010 award, nominees must be pediatricians, and they must have displayed a sustained record of excellence as a clinical investigator. Nominees do not need to be a member of the Society for Pediatric Research.
- A single award will be made annually. The award provides a \$500 honorarium, complimentary registration, a plaque, and travel expenses to attend the 2010 Pediatric Academic Societies' Annual Meeting. The award will be presented in a related session during the PAS Annual Meeting followed by a lecture given by the awardee.
- Awards will be made only when there are worthy candidates.
- The Committee for the Douglas K. Richardson Award will solely be responsible for the selection of the recipients.
- Members of the Selection Committee cannot nominate or support any nominations.
- Nominations will be automatically held and reconsidered for the following year, for candidates who did not receive the award during the first year they were nominated.
- Nominees do not need to be a member of the Society for Pediatric Research.
- Each awardee will be invited to serve on the committee providing one mechanism for turnover of committee membership by individuals suited to adjudicate the terms of this particular award.

**RECEIPT DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 18, 2009**

This award, established in 2003 by the SPR, is also supported by generous contributions by:

*Friends and Colleagues of Doug Richardson, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center,  
Children's Hospital Boston, Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Harvard Medical School*

## NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DOUGLAS K. RICHARDSON AWARD

- **Nominations must be received by November 18, 2009.** The committee will select the Awardee(s) prior to January 2010.
- The nomination must be supported by the following documents:
  - Completed nomination for
  - Detailed letter of nomination that provides evidence of substantive research contributions in either: 1) the effective utilization of healthcare services, 2) the identification of risk factors for adverse outcomes, 3) general epidemiologic health services studies, or 4) patient oriented clinical studies that lead to improved healthcare delivery to the neonatal or broader pediatric populations. Evidence of mentorship or fostering careers in health services research will be given special consideration.
  - Include three (3) letters of support from individuals other than the nominator. These letters should substantiate the nominee's research career achievements and/or evidence of mentorship.
  - Curriculum Vitae of the nominee, including research activities.
  - One set of completed nomination form and all supporting documents (no staples) must be received at the SPR Central Office by **November 18, 2009**.

Mail complete packet to:

**Society for Pediatric Research**  
**Douglas K. Richardson Award Committee**  
3400 Research Forest Dr., Ste. B7  
The Woodlands, TX 77381

(281) 419-0052 Fax (281) 419-0082  
E-mail: [info@aps-spr.org](mailto:info@aps-spr.org) URL: [www.aps-spr.org](http://www.aps-spr.org)



# Douglas K. Richardson Award

*for Perinatal & Pediatric Healthcare Research*

## Nomination Form ~ 2010

An electronic version of this form is available on our website at [www.aps-spr.org](http://www.aps-spr.org)

**Please TYPE or PRINT CLEARLY your information in the spaces**

### NOMINEE INFORMATION

Full Name with Degree	
Department/Division	
Institution	
Street	
City, State, Zip Code	
Phone Number	
Fax Number	
E-Mail Address	

### PROPOSER INFORMATION

Full Name with Degree	
Institution	
Street	
City, State, Zip Code	
Phone Number	
Fax Number	
E-Mail Address	

### LETTERS OF SUPPORT

List the names of supporters here and include letters with application. (In addition to the Proposer's Essay)  
*These letters should provide evidence regarding how the nominee has displayed outstanding contributions to the field of Pediatric health services research or patient/population oriented investigations.*

### NOMINATION PACKET SHOULD CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING

<input type="checkbox"/> Completed Nomination Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Nominee's curriculum vitae
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposer's letter	<input type="checkbox"/> One set of completed nomination materials without staples
<input type="checkbox"/> Three (3) letters of support	

**RECEIPT DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 18, 2009**

**SEND COMPLETE PACKET TO:**      **SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH**  
**DOUGLAS K. RICHARDSON AWARD**  
 3400 Research Forest Drive, Suite B-7  
 The Woodlands, TX 77381