

Research & Teaching AWARDS

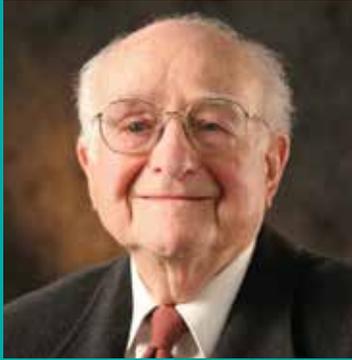


2014 Morris F. Collen Research Awards
Teaching Awards for Excellence



The TPMG Research and Teaching Awards were established in 2003 to acknowledge the extraordinary accomplishments of practicing clinicians who also excel in research and teaching.

Morris F. Collen, MD



In 1948, Morris F. Collen, MD, became one of the seven founding physicians of The Permanente Medical Group. As a clinician, researcher and teacher, Dr. Collen made significant contributions to Medical Group colleagues and Kaiser Permanente members. Today he is recognized internationally for his pioneering work in applying computer technology to medicine.

From 1953 to 1961, Dr. Collen served as Physician-in-Chief in San Francisco. He became Director of Medical Methods Research (now the Division of Research) in 1961, ending his tenure in 1979 when he became Director, Division of Technology Assessment.

Dr. Collen's work in medical computing attracted national attention. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science in 1981, and served as Chair of the Library of Medicine's Board of Scientific Counselors from 1985 to 1987. As a Scholar-in-Residence from 1987 to 1993, he wrote a history of medical applications of the computer.

Since 1983, Dr. Collen has served as a Consultant with the Division of Research, and he remains an enthusiastic supporter of research and teaching in TPMG.

"To be a good physician, you have to keep up with what is new, which means you have to be involved in research and training. So patient care is our first obligation, and to maintain a good quality of care, we must also research and teach. And we do."

~ Morris F. Collen, MD



MORRIS F. COLLEN
RESEARCH
AWARD

Jean-Luc Szpakowski, MD

GASTROENTEROLOGY, GREATER SOUTHERN ALAMEDA AREA

Dr. Jean-Luc Szpakowski had a question that needed an answer. Did young people with hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection really need extensive testing for liver cancer (HCC)? "I'd see people with HBV in their 20s and 30s getting multiple ultrasounds and high radiation CT scans looking for liver cancer and I thought, people that age almost never get liver cancer," says Dr. Szpakowski.

His study, *Causes of Death in Patients With Hepatitis B: A Natural History Cohort Study in the United States*, published in *Hepatology* (2013) confirmed that it was extremely rare for any man younger than 40 or a woman under the age of 50 to die of liver disease.

The study showed that for older patients, the risk of dying from cirrhosis and HCC increased with age. What was unexpected, however, was that the risk rose so much that even in old age

"Dr. Szpakowski's study provides invaluable evidence-based guidelines for all clinicians caring for patients with hepatitis B."

it was the cause of death in over 40% of all patients with HBV, more than heart disease and all other cancers combined. His findings strongly indicated that, in his words, "age appropriate screening for HCC is the most important cancer screening these patients can get."

Dr. Szpakowski's study provides invaluable evidence for all clinicians caring for patients with HBV.



MORRIS F. COLLEN
RESEARCH
AWARD

Roger Baxter, MD

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, EAST BAY AREA

Is a vaccine safe? Is it effective? Roger Baxter, MD has spent much of his career answering those critical questions, to the benefit of people around the globe.

Since 2006, Dr. Baxter has been co-director of the Kaiser Permanente Vaccine Study Center, one of the country's major surveillance centers for vaccine safety. He is principal investigator for many ongoing studies of vaccines, biologics, and the epidemiology of infectious diseases, and has published extensively on vaccine safety and effectiveness.

His contributions include clinical trials leading to vaccine licensure, and the creation of an infrastructure that facilitates and enhances research efforts within KP. He helped develop a novel case-centered approach for vaccine safety studies that overcomes many of the variables inherent in other study methods.

"Dr. Baxter's research has advanced medical knowledge about the safety and efficacy of an array of vaccines."

Dr. Baxter's research has advanced medical knowledge about an array of vaccines. He led efforts to show that vaccines do not increase the risk for Guillain-Barré syndrome, and he proved the long-term effectiveness of the varicella vaccine in preventing chicken pox and shingles.

He also published three important studies on pertussis vaccines showing that older whole-cell vaccines were more effective than newer acellular pertussis vaccines, which lose their effectiveness over time. Based on these findings, he's become an outspoken advocate for the need for improved pertussis vaccines.



TEACHING AWARD
FOR EXCELLENCE
IN GME

David Manske, MD

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY, SOUTH SACRAMENTO

Many great orthopedic surgeons across the country have one thing in common: they mastered their specialty under the skilled guidance of Dr. David Manske.

“I wanted to teach ever since I was in medical school,” says Dr. Manske. “I had such great teachers and I thought, one day, I’d like to be just like those guys.”

For many years now, he’s been the kind of teacher he once dreamed of emulating — unanimously praised for his operative teaching prowess. “He gives the perfect amount of guidance, while at the same time stepping back to let us solve problems,” says a former resident.

“Dr. Manske is the main reason UC Davis residents call their time at Kaiser South Sacramento as the best rotation in their entire residency.”

Dr. Manske virtually owns the UC Davis clinical faculty awards, having walked off with top honors six times. “He is the main reason that UC Davis residents talk about their time at Kaiser South Sacramento as the best rotation in their entire residency,” says another former resident, now a colleague.

“I have 28 years of experience,” says Dr. Manske. “I only hope that I’m able to pass some of that experience along and maybe help someone get where I am now just a little sooner.”



TEACHING AWARD
FOR EXCELLENCE
IN CME

Joel Levis, MD, PhD

EMERGENCY MEDICINE, SANTA CLARA

A patient is rushed into the Emergency Department with a massive heart attack. What do you do?

Dr. Joel Levis answers this challenging question in Heart Alerts, his instructive write-up of patients presenting to the ED with ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI). He has written up more than 500 cases as teaching tools for his fellow ED physicians, cardiologists and interventional cardiologists throughout the region.

"I'm a proponent of the case-based education process," says Dr. Levis. "The average physician working in our ED may only see two or three STEMI cases per year, so my hope is that these Heart Alerts will help physicians rapidly identify a STEMI case and know exactly what to do."

"My hope is that Heart Alerts will help other ED physicians rapidly identify a STEMI heart attack and know exactly what to do."

In addition, Dr. Levis has directed over 50 disaster simulations, giving hundreds of physicians and staff a team-based experience in various disaster scenarios. In 2014, Santa Clara received the Samuel R. Sherman Award for innovation in CME from the California Institute for Medical Quality, citing Dr. Levis' real-life simulations as a form of training which is "an enhancement over the usual run of didactic emergency-preparedness lectures."