

research & teaching AWARDS



2012 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



Walter Kinney, MD
Gynecologic Oncology, North Valley

Dr. Walter Kinney helped confirm what he and others long suspected - that a Pap test alone may not be enough to detect certain types of invasive cervical cancer. A test for the human papilloma virus (HPV) is also needed.

In part because of Dr. Kinney's previous efforts, in 2003 Kaiser Permanente became the world's first health plan to recommend combined Pap and HPV tests for women age 30 and older. In 2012, based in part on Dr. Kinney's work, the American Cancer Society began recommending Pap and HPV tests as the preferred choice for all US women age 30 and older.

"This is the most significant step toward detecting and preventing cervical cancer since the Pap test was implemented in the mid-20th century," says Ruth Shaber, MD, Medical Director at Kaiser Permanente's Care Management Institute. "Dr. Kinney's work has been truly groundbreaking."

MORRIS F. COLLEN RESEARCH AWARD



Michael Lawson, MD
Gastroenterology, North Valley

"I want my research to make a difference in people's lives," says Dr. Michael Lawson. His research has been making a difference for decades now, especially for people with serious gastrointestinal problems that affect their health, well-being and quality of life.

Dr. Lawson has been the lead investigator on many studies which have led to new treatment protocols and drug regimens for people with colon cancer, irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis or dyspepsia.

In what he calls "my most satisfying research effort to date," he developed a way to help teens successfully manage their symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome so they can enjoy life more today, and in Dr. Lawson's words, "avoid becoming chronically-suffering adults."

MORRIS F. COLLEN RESEARCH AWARD



Raul Cruz, MD
Head and Neck Surgery, East Bay Area

A number of our country's best head and neck surgeons have one thing in common; they were trained by Dr. Raul Cruz.

Since 2001, Dr. Cruz has directed Kaiser Permanente Oakland's distinguished Head & Neck Residency Training Program.

He teaches residents the technical skills of an accomplished surgeon, and believes it's equally important to guide them in an approach to medicine that has as much heart as science. He invites residents to join him on international medical missions to hone their skills and in his words, "experience the joy of helping people who might otherwise never be helped."

Dr. Cruz's greatest pleasure is supporting residents during their rigorous training program. "They know I've got their backs," he says with a smile. "I always have their best interests at heart."

TEACHING AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION



Vivian Reyes, MD
Emergency Medicine, San Francisco

Teaching is in her blood. A tutor throughout high school, college, and medical school, now Dr. Vivian Reyes teaches clinicians and non-clinicians how to save lives in an emergency.

"Most people, even those of us in emergency medicine, aren't prepared for a major disaster," says Dr. Reyes. So she has taken it upon herself to teach life-saving skills at Kaiser Permanente facilities and in Northern California communities.

When there's a cholera outbreak in Nigeria, or a devastating earthquake in Haiti, she's there too, caring for people and giving others a crash course in emergency medicine.

"Dr. Reyes is an outstanding teacher," says Carol Havens, MD, Regional Director of Clinical Education. "Her efforts help save lives around the world."

TEACHING AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL MEDICAL EDUCATION