Each year since 1988, Alpha Omega Alpha, in cooperation with the Association of American Medical Colleges, presents four AΩA Distinguished Teacher Awards to faculty members in American medical schools. Two awards are for accomplishments in teaching the basic sciences and two are for inspired teaching in the clinical sciences. In 1997, AΩA named the award to honor its retiring executive secretary Robert J. Glaser, MD. Nominations for the award are submitted to the AAMC each spring by the deans of medical schools.

Nominations were reviewed by a committee chosen by AΩA and the AAMC. This year’s committee members were prior award recipients J. John Cohen, MD, PhD; Ruth-Marie Fincher, MD; Cynthia Lance-Jones, PhD; Richard B. Gunderman, MD, PhD; Kelley Skeff, MD, PhD; Stuart Slavin, MD, MEd; Mikel Snow, PhD; Gabriel T. Virella, MD, PhD; LuAnn Wilkerson, EdD; Roy Ziegelstein, MD.

Winners of the award receive $10,000, their schools receive $2,500, and active AΩA chapters at those schools receive $1,000. Schools nominating candidates for the award receive a plaque with the name of the nominee.

Brief summaries of the accomplishments in medical education of the 2014 award recipients follow.

Richard L. Byyny, MD  
Executive Director

Charles L. Bardes, MD (Clinical)  
(AΩA, University of Pennsylvania, 1986)  
Associate Dean (Admissions) and Professor of Clinical Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College

Dr. Bardes received his MD at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1986 and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at the New York Hospital in 1989. He joined Cornell in 1989 as an instructor in Medicine and is now Professor of Clinical Medicine and Associate Dean of Admissions.

Dr. Bardes is the most decorated teacher in the history of Cornell Medical College. He has received twenty-seven teaching awards at Cornell since 1993, including the Elliot Hochstein Teaching Award (1993, 2002, 2009), established by the Class of 1971 and Alpha Omega Alpha and chosen by the graduating class. In 2011, Dr. Bardes was presented with the Siegel Family Faculty Award, the college’s highest recognition.

Dr. Bardes currently is developing a new curriculum centered on the three themes of Science, Patient Care, and Physicianship, and chairs the Clinical Curriculum Committee and the Committee on Admissions. He also serves on the Executive Faculty Council, the Medical Education Council, and other committees at Cornell.

Dr. Bardes is recognized as an outstanding clinician and diagnostician. He is widely published and is a speaker on the subject of medical education. He is also a published essayist and poet. His essays and poems have appeared in Agni, Literary Imagination, Proto, and the Bellevue Literary Review.
**Bernard Karnath, MD (Clinical)**  
(AOA, University of Texas Medical Branch, 2007)  
Professor of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

Dr. Karnath received his MD at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in 1994 and completed his residency there in 1997. He joined the faculty at UTMB in 1997 as an Assistant Professor and is now Professor of Medicine.

In 2008, Dr. Karnath was inducted into the UTMB Hall of Fame. He has authored or co-authored thirty-four review papers for the section. He has served as the section editor of Hospital Physician Review of Clinical Signs. He is currently an Editor at the University of Texas Medical Branch. He serves as a William Osler Scholar in the John P. McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine, the highest honor for teaching faculty at UTMB. He was inducted into the UTMB Academy of Master Teachers in 2009. He received the Herbert S. Waxman Award for Outstanding Medical Student Education by the American College of Physicians in 2013 and was inducted into the University of Texas Kenneth I. Shine Academy of Health Science Education in 2014.

From 2002 through 2009, Dr. Karnath served as the series editor for the Hospital Physician Review of Clinical Signs section, as well as authoring and co-authoring thirty-four review papers for the section. He serves at UTMB as Pre-Clinical Course Coordinator; Internal Medicine Clerkship Co-Director; Course Director for Basic Science and Humanities Selective for Mystery Diagnosis; Course Director for Acting Internship in Internal Medicine senior elective; and Senior Electives Course Director, Department of Internal Medicine Electives.

Dr. Karnath is a volunteer at the UTMB student-run St. Vincent’s Clinic, where he has eight times received the Most Dedicated Faculty Award. He also serves as a Student Mentor in the Rene Laennec Society of the Academy of Oslerian Medicine at UTMB.

**Randall King, MD, PhD (Basic)**  
Harry C. McKenzie Professor,  
Department of Cell Biology, Harvard Medical School

Dr. King received his PhD in Biochemistry at the University of California, San Francisco, in 1995, and his MD at Harvard Medical School in 1997. He joined Harvard Medical School in 1997 as an Instructor in Cell Biology and is now the Harry C. McKenzie Professor in the Department of Cell Biology.

In 2005 Dr. King was awarded the Harvard Medical School Faculty Prize for Excellence in Teaching; he has been nominated six times. Student comments about Dr. King include:

“Dr. King is undoubtedly the best professor I have ever had. His organization, lecture style, creation of learning objectives, plethora of review sessions and/or office hours made it a difficult course with a lot of material seem much easier and able to handle.”

“He is the gold standard against which we compare all other course directors.”

“I entered medical school with a background in the humanities. That my understanding and intuitive grasp of biochemistry was able to advance to the point it is now is a testament to Dr. King’s excellence as a teacher. His extraordinary cross-cultural competence also helped ensure that everyone felt comfortable and accommodated in the course.”

Dean Jeffrey S. Flier writes, “Dr. King melds basic discovery with clinical relevance in both his research and educational endeavors. He has taught more than 1500 medical students the importance and clinical relevance of understanding basic mechanisms of biomedical discovery. He views teaching ‘as a profound privilege rather than an obligation and looks forward to developing new innovations in both the classroom and the laboratory.’ Dr. King has the unmatched ability to balance his biomedical research career with substantial contributions to HMS’ educational mission.”

**Emma A. Meagher, MBCh, BAO (MD) (Basic)**  
Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Meagher received her MBCh, BAO (MD) degree at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland in 1987. She completed her Internal Medicine residency at Beaumont Hospital in Dublin in 1991, Registrar in Gastroenterology at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Dublin in 1992, and Senior Registrar/Lecturer in Cardiovascular Medicine and Therapeutics at Mater Hospital/University Colletage in Dublin in 1994.

Dr. Meagher joined the University of Pennsylvania as a Lecturer in Medicine (Experimental Therapeutics) in 1994 and is now Associate Professor of Medicine and Course Director for Pharmacology.

Dr. Meagher has received many awards for teaching at Penn, including the Dean’s Award for Basic Science Teaching in 2013; the Robert Dunning Dripps Memorial Award for Excellence in Medical Education in 2010; and the University’s highest teaching award, the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2005.

Dean J. Larry Jameson writes, “Dr. Meagher is an educator par excellence. She is highly respected by students and faculty alike. She efficiently fuses the essential principles of basic science and their application to clinical medicine through her effective teaching of pharmacology. She works very effectively to ensure the appropriate integrated representation of pharmacology across the four-year continuum of medical education.”

In 2008 Dr. Meagher developed the contemporary course Case Studies in Translational Research for MD/PhD students that is focused on personalized therapeutics, diagnostics, and devices. She has lately worked with medical school leadership to create and implement a combined MD/MTR (Masters of Translational Research) degree program.