

Dear Members of the Women in Medicine Committee,

We are writing in support of Dr. Susan B. Scholar, who is being considered for the 2009 Women in Medicine Leadership Award

Dr. Scholar has had a long and impressive career as an academic physician and has inspired many women to follow in her very able footsteps. After a highly productive career as a physician, teacher and researcher, Dr. Scholar turned her attention to leadership in academic medicine, both for her own interest and to help others. Her current role as Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs is one that allows her many opportunities to help faculty members reach their potential.

Prior to becoming Associate Dean, Dr. Scholar was Vice Chair of her Department of Procedural Medicine. In this role, she mentored the junior faculty, and trained other senior faculty to be mentors, both in her own and in other departments. She paid meticulous attention to the needs of the department, and diligently ensured that faculty recruitments, expectations and schedules adhered to the highest standards. Her personal warmth and collegiality were widely recognized, and she was a welcome addition to any team or committee lucky enough to include her.

Dr. Scholar is an intelligent, conscientious and hard-working physician who is highly motivated. She is very careful and thorough, always well prepared for the work day, and always willing to “go the extra mile” for the patient. She has been and continues to be a highly valued clinician whose interest and ability to hear her patients’ needs coupled with her diligence and disciplined approach to problem solving has led to her becoming the choice of generations of patients, as well as many clinicians and their own families.

Dr. Scholar’s popularity as a teacher is illustrated by her “Teacher of the Year” Award in 1999. She took her interest in teaching to a national level through her involvement with regional educational meetings, and production of a series of educational slides and presentations which she presented nationally. She has lectured all over the country including multiple visiting professorships and has taught at many national workshops and courses.

As a teacher and researcher, Dr. Scholar has been a model for other women physicians. She has had numerous scientific exhibits, abstracts, and peer review journal articles as well as multiple book chapters. Many of these articles presented an innovative technique to the medical community. The early articles on these topics are both considered seminal works. She directed the well known research enterprise for her department. In this role, she has mentored many very capable post doctoral students, many of them women, who have gone on to prominent positions of their own.

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Once Dr. Scholar turned her attention to career paths for women in medicine, her persistence, and determination began to pay dividends, initially for women who worked with her, and ultimately for women across the country. She recognized that women often face disadvantages due to the challenge of the tenure clock occurring simultaneously with childbearing and early childhood responsibilities for many women and she spent countless hours educating the medical community, ultimately leading to important changes in our promotion policies. Seeing that part time work was often a disadvantage for women in this setting as well, she benchmarked with other institutions to bring the information to the attention of our Dean, and was able, once again, to affect policy changes that helped many of our junior women faculty.

In summary, I can see no reason not to give this award to Dr. Scholar. Her tireless efforts on behalf of women have certainly earned her some measure of well earned recognition. Her continual work in this area of endeavor continues to increase her skills and abilities and I have no doubt that we will see even more of her accomplishments in the years to come.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

FTMS Women in Academic Medicine Committee