Neonatology pioneer at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford and Stanford Children’s Health honored with major national award

*Physician-scientist and outstanding role model has dedicated his career to improving the lives of the smallest and sickest babies*

For immediate release
March 7, 2016

STANFORD, Calif. – David K. Stevenson, MD, renowned neonatology leader at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford and professor of pediatrics at the Stanford University School of Medicine, has been named recipient of the 2016 Joseph W. St. Geme Jr. Leadership Award by The Federation of Pediatric Organizations.

Stevenson will be presented the award on April 30 at the Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting in Baltimore.

This prestigious award was created in the memory of St. Geme, who was a leader in addressing issues concerning the future of pediatric education and research. It recognizes a pediatrician who is an outstanding role model as a clinician, educator and/or investigator. Recipients have a record of broad and sustained contributions to pediatrics that have had or will have a major impact on child health. Most importantly, the award recognizes those individuals who have “created a future” within the field.

Nominating Stevenson were pulmonologist Hugh O’Brodovich MD, the Adalyn Jay Physician-in-Chief at Packard Children’s and professor of pediatrics at the Stanford University School of Medicine, and Donna Ferriero, MD, MS, professor of pediatrics and of neurology, chair of pediatrics, and physician-in-chief at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital.

“Dr. Stevenson is an outstanding role model who has made remarkable contributions in clinical care, education and research,” said O’Brodovich. “During Dr. Stevenson’s long and remarkable career, he has greatly advanced the care of premature infants, been an influential leader in education, and worked tirelessly toward discovering the causes of premature birth in conjunction with the March of Dimes.” As principal investigator of the March of Dimes Prematurity Research Center at Stanford University, Stevenson leads the center’s work to understand preterm birth.

Stevenson, who has dedicated his career to improving the lives of the smallest and sickest babies, said he is honored and humbled to be the beneficiary of the award,
especially knowing that St. Geme received his undergraduate and medical degrees from Stanford University.

“We were both beneficiaries of Stanford’s environment, which creates opportunities for students where they can take intellectual risks and not be afraid to fail,” he said. “It’s a culture that is conducive to innovation and discovery, and I wouldn’t be the leader I am today without my relationships with the students and the faculty members I have worked with. This award reflects their success as much as my own.”

Few could match Stevenson’s long and storied career as a leader in care, research and education. He received a B.A. in philosophy from Stanford, earned his M.D. and completed pediatric residency training at the University of Washington School Of Medicine, and then returned to Stanford for a fellowship in neonatal-perinatal medicine. In 1979, he joined Stanford’s faculty and became professor of pediatrics by 1990. Stevenson, who has held several leadership positions at Stanford, now serves as director of the Charles B. and Ann L. Johnson Center for Pregnancy and Newborn Services at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford and Stanford Children’s Health, senior associate dean for maternal & child health at the School of Medicine, and co-director of the university’s Child Health Research Institute.

His seminal studies on neonatal jaundice, bilirubin production and heme oxygenase have changed practice in neonatal intensive care units and have set the stage for future approaches for the management of newborn jaundice. His work has appeared in more than 600 publications and led to new technologies, including helping to pioneer the first optical imaging of structure and function in living mammals using time-of-flight absorbance imaging.

His list of honors and achievements includes the Virginia Apgar Award, the highest award in Perinatal Pediatrics in 2006. He has also received the Maureen Andrew Mentor Award from the Society for Pediatric Research, and the Jonas Salk Award for Leadership in Prematurity Prevention from the March of Dimes Foundation. In 2012, he was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

He is a member and has served in leadership positions in numerous professional societies, including president of the American Pediatric Society. Stevenson was co-founder of the California Association of Neonatologists in 1994, and served as president from 1999-2000. He also co-founded in 1997 the California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative, a statewide perinatal data and quality improvement system. He has also been the chair of the sub-board of the American Board of Pediatrics and served on the latter’s Long Range Planning Committee.

Stevenson also has served on numerous pediatric editorial boards and as editor for many national and international neonatal and perinatal medicine publications.

*Discover more about the work of Dr. Stevenson* [here](#).
About The Federation of Pediatric Organizations

FOPO is composed of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Academic Pediatric Association, American Pediatric Society, American Board of Pediatrics, Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs, Association of Pediatric Program Directors, and Society for Pediatric Research. The purpose of FOPO is to promote optimal health for children by building on the efforts and expertise of the member organizations, and on the relationships between the member organizations to accomplish shared goals. More here.

About Stanford Children’s Health and Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital

Stanford

Stanford Children’s Health, with Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at its core, is the largest Bay Area health care enterprise exclusively dedicated to children and expectant mothers. Long recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of America’s best, we are a leader in world-class, nurturing care and extraordinary outcomes in every pediatric and obstetric specialty, with care ranging from the routine to rare, regardless of a family’s ability to pay. Together with our Stanford Medicine physicians, nurses, and staff, we can be accessed through partnerships, collaborations, outreach, specialty clinics and primary care practices at more than 60 locations in Northern California and 100 locations in the U.S. western region. As a non-profit, we are committed to supporting our community – from caring for uninsured or underinsured kids, homeless teens and pregnant moms, to helping re-establish school nurse positions in local schools. Learn more at stanfordchildrens.org and on our Healthier, Happy Lives blog. You can also discover how we are Building the Hospital of the Future. Join us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.