

# 2024 Leonard Palumbo Jr., MD Faculty Achievement Award

## Call for Nominations

The **Leonard Palumbo Jr., MD Faculty Achievement Award**, recognizes a member of the School of Medicine faculty who displays dedication to compassionate patient care and excellence in the teaching and mentoring of young physicians. The award was created in memory of Dr. Palumbo through an endowment gift by his brother, Mr. E. Arthur Palumbo (Trinity College '49). The award carries a stipend to further the academic development of the recipient. In rare circumstances, two prizes may be awarded and the monetary prize will be split equally.

**Nominations:** All Medical Center faculty and staff are invited to nominate **regular rank faculty** in the School of Medicine who exemplify the traits honored by this faculty award. Please note that winners may receive copies of their nomination letters. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

1. Letters of nomination should include description of the circumstances that moved you to submit the nomination, with specific examples of their dedication and excellence of how they have truly made a difference to the institution. **A minimum of 2 letters and no more than 5 letters should be submitted.**
2. Nominees current *curriculum vitae*

**Please note:** Nomination letters and CV should be submitted together in one document. The committee will be unable to review any additional materials.

Winners of the Leonard Palumbo Jr., MD Faculty Achievement Award will be selected by a committee of faculty peers and the selection committee will work to ensure nominees represent the diversity of our community.

**Nomination due date January 29, 2024**

Please submit nominations **electronically** to [facdev@dm.duke.edu](mailto:facdev@dm.duke.edu)

This information and a list of previous winners is also available online

<https://medschool.duke.edu/about-us/faculty-resources/faculty-development/som-faculty-awards>

Contact the Office for Faculty with questions  
[facdev@dm.duke.edu](mailto:facdev@dm.duke.edu)

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Known as “Boom” to his friends and colleagues, Dr. Leonard Palumbo came to Duke from New Jersey in the late 1930s. He completed his undergraduate (Trinity College '42), medical school (MD '44) and clinical training at Duke (HS '44-'50), and was elected to both Phi Beta Kappa and the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Societies. A brilliant, intense, and committed man, Dr. Palumbo was a scientist and noted clinical researcher on cancers of the female reproductive system, publishing in the area of surgical treatments for cervical cancers. He was equally well known for his formidable skills in the delivery and operating rooms, and was revered by his patients for his empathy and compassion. Dr. Palumbo had a natural flair for teaching, evincing deep respect for his students, and a special rapport with his residents with whom he spent many hours of meticulous instruction. The Palumbo Award specifically honors these two exemplary dimensions of its namesake's life: compassionate patient care and excellence in the mentoring of young physicians.

From 1950 to 1952, Dr. Palumbo was a member of Duke's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. His long-time mentor at Duke was Dr. Robert A. Ross, who came to Duke in the 1930s when Dr. F. Bayard Carter founded the Department. In 1952, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill opened its new hospital and four-year medical program. When Dr. Ross was invited to become chair of UNC's first Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, he invited Dr. Palumbo to join him as his first faculty member. Dr. Palumbo accepted the position of Chief of the Division of Oncology and continued his career at UNC until his death in 1974. Thanks to the generosity and love of his brother, Arthur Palumbo, Dr. Palumbo's memory will live long at Duke.