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.

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 is requested (no more than 5 letters should be submitted). Letters must be submitted together and the committee will be unable to review additional materials.**
2. Nominees current curriculum vitae

Nomination due date January 29, 2021

Please submit nominations electronically to 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/faculty-awards

Contact the Office for Faculty with questions
facdev@dm.duke.edu | 919.684.5002

The selection committee will work to ensure nominees represent the diversity of our community.

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.