

CSA Distinguished Service Award 2003: Stephen H. Jackson, M.D.

By Arthur O. McGowan, M.D. – Associate Editor

One of the hardest working individuals that I have ever known will be receiving the California Society of Anesthesiologists Distinguished Service Award (DSA) during this year's Annual Meeting presented in conjunction with the Anesthesia Department of the University of California San Diego Medical School. Stephen H. Jackson, M.D., truly is the epitome of the type of individual the originators of this award had in mind when they established the award's criteria. At the same time, Steve is one of those self-effacing people who would insist others have contributed more, or that what he has done was not that important. However, the members of the DSA selection committee appropriately nominated him, and the House of Delegates unanimously elected him to receive this honor.

For a number of years the *CSA Bulletin* has published an article about the DSA recipient, presenting highlights of their CSA contributions authored by several of their peers in the organization. This year presented a minor problem because Steve is the editor and would never have initiated such an article or even allowed its publication if he knew about it. Thus, we have produced this article without his permission, knowledge or editorial participation.

This award is very unique not only because of its inherent importance, but also because it has not been awarded every year. The DSA was established in 1974 for recognition of distinguished and meritorious members of the CSA. The DSA Committee is made up of the five most recent past presidents, and their charge is to determine, from nominations received from the district directors, who should be the nominee for that current year. If a nomination *is* made, that name is presented to the House of Delegates for approval. Nominees can be members who have demonstrated outstanding and meritorious service to the Society of a civic, political, educational, clinical or research nature.

The DSA was first awarded in 1976, and since its inception it has been bestowed only 19 times including this year's presentation. A total of nine years have seen *no* award being made. It is because of this, the fact that the award is not an automatic one, that makes it so unique.

DSA 2003—Stephen H. Jackson—Cont'd

Likewise, each DSA recipient has been unique, but at the same time a common thread of character traits exists in these individuals—primarily of dedication to furthering the specialty of anesthesiology through activities in the CSA and the ASA. Steve Jackson has excelled in this area as a spokesperson for our speciality. He has served on countless CSA and ASA committees as well as being CSA president in 1989-1990. He was an associate editor of the *Bulletin* for six years and has served as Editor since 1997. Probably his most striking achievements have come while serving in two committee areas: Bioethics and Physician Health and Well Being. Steve's efforts in these two areas have been monumental both on the national and state level. I am not alone in my consideration of him as a valuable resource person to answer questions in either of these areas.

There is an old saying that if you have an important job to be done you seek out one of the busiest people you know and ask them to take on yet another task. These are the people who have that knack of getting things done even if they are already overextended. Steve is one of these people. I personally don't think I know anyone who is quite as busy as Steve seems to be. Along the way he has published over one hundred items, some of them book chapters

Steve was of immeasurable help to me during my term as *Bulletin* editor. We held many long conversations, usually late at night, as we discussed the pros and cons of the content of the issue we were working on at the time. Also, there were numerous times when I utilized Steve's talents, knowing that I had picked a busy person, but he would get the job done.

It has been an honor, a pleasure and a delight to work alongside Steve for these many years. I count him as one of my true friends, and I am looking forward to being among a large group of his family and colleagues when Steve becomes the nineteenth recipient of the CSA DSA.

Distinguished Service Award—Stephen Harvey Jackson, M.D.

By Peter L. McDermott, M.D., Ph.D.—Past President ASA and CSA

I have known Steve Jackson for over twenty years and my admiration for him has done nothing but grow. His involvement in anesthesia organizations is well-known. He has served the California Society of Anesthesiologists in many capacities including those of Treasurer, President, and Editor of the CSA *Bulletin*. His work with ASA in its governance as well as in scientific and ethical matters has

DSA 2003-Stephen H. Jackson-Cont'd

been of enduring value. He has been a voice of conscience and concern to anesthesiologists for their well-being and ethical behavior. Perhaps less known are his contributions to his local medical community and to the California Medical Association. His many articles and publications run the gamut from scientific investigation to philosophical ruminations on the responsibilities and the opportunities open to anesthesiologists.

Science deals with facts, data, and evidence and that is sufficient for it. Steve has amply demonstrated his competence in this field. The human experience is, however, a universe of greater values. He understands that the soul needs to be nourished by something more than information. Dare one say that the antique virtues of ethical behavior, nobility of heart, and the appreciation of the beautiful and the good is the essence of that universe occupied by the true physician? Steve has said this many times and in many ways. Life is simply too rich to miss the fullness of its esthetic and philosophical possibilities. His has been a voice of care and charity for his fellow physicians and others.

As Steve is honored by the California Society of Anesthesiologists by the bestowal of its highest award—The Distinguished Service Award—we bask in the reflected glow of a good and honorable man. We all look a little better and are a lot better because of Steve, his example, and his contributions to his profession.

Stephen Jackson, M.D. Distinguished Service Award 2003

By Benjamin Shwachman, M.D.—Past President CSA

A few years ago the then president of the CSA died tragically while in office. Many members of the Board of Directors, including myself, attended the church service. It was an extremely sad time for all of us, but Steve Jackson was the first among us to outwardly express his emotions of severe grief. Here is a warm and brilliant man devoted to his profession, his colleagues, his patients and his family—a truly exemplary human being for all of us. He has contributed enormously not only to our specialty, but also to the conduct of the patient-physician relationship. Steve always has been the heart and soul of anesthesia in California and nationally through his work on physician health and well being and ethics committees for the CSA and the ASA. Steve continues to work through these and other medical organizations to achieve ethical behavior on the part of physicians and quality medical care on behalf of patients. For those of you who

DSA 2003-Stephen H. Jackson-Cont'd

don't know, He also was a respected academician and continues to make meaningful contributions to the anesthesia and bioethics literature.

Steve was the editor of the *Bulletin* when I was president. The brilliant articles I wrote were truly brilliant. I can say that without people thinking I have a big ego if one realizes how much of the rewrite of the articles was done by Steve. In fact, I thoroughly enjoyed guessing how they would eventually come out and so I looked forward to reading "my articles." In fact, I have suggested to the CSA editorial staff that to stay in form this article might be given to Steve for a rewrite and hence a marked improvement in its quality. [**Editor's Note:** Only minor changes needed to be made, and they were not made by Dr. Jackson.]

Steve is fortunate to have the full support and love of his family, of which he inevitably is proud and speaks so glowingly. Although he openly can be true to his innermost emotions of sensitivity and caring, when appropriate, Steve can be tough. Yes, he may seem soft, but he can assume the role of a tenacious advocate for what he believes to be right, just and fair. I eagerly look forward to attending future Board meetings when I can sit down with Steve and spend what always proves to be quality time with him.

2003 ASA Art Exhibit

ASA members, spouses and children interested in art are urged to submit their work for the ASA Art Exhibit at the 2003 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, October 11-15. The theme category for the 2003 exhibit will be "Flower Power." Works in any media that apply to this theme will be judged and displayed as a separate category.

Go to <http://www2.asahq.org/web/miscfiles/03exhibitgl.asp> for a copy of the guidelines and an application.