

THE OREGON CLINIC

Oregon's largest multi-specialty, physician-owned medical clinic.

Media contact:
Bela Friedman / 503-848-3640
Elizabeth Lindenmuth/503-963-2893



Dr. James R. Patterson of The Oregon Clinic Awarded a Gold Medal from Columbia University's Medical School

*Award Pays Tribute to Physician's Lifelong Achievements as Clinician,
Educator and Patient Advocate*

Portland, Ore., July 26, 2011 – Dr. James R. Patterson, a physician with the Pulmonary Critical Care & Sleep Medicine Division at The Oregon Clinic, has received the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons' Gold Medal in recognition of excellence in clinical medicine. Along with another physician chosen for scientific accomplishments, Dr. Patterson was chosen in a closed session of the selection committee from nominations made by alumni, classmates and others.

He received the award during the Alumni Reunion Weekend at a gala dinner in Manhattan on May 14. In the printed program for the dinner, he was described as being "one of the leading lights in pulmonary and critical care at The Oregon Clinic, which he helped found."

"I cannot imagine a more deserving candidate," said Louis S. Libby, MD, executive vice president and chief medical officer at The Oregon Clinic. "Having worked alongside Jim for more than 25 years, I have observed and also greatly benefited from his mentoring, clinical educational skills, high ethical standards and charisma."

Dr. Patterson is also the proud recipient of a number of teaching and other awards and frequently has been on best doctor lists both locally and nationally. He spent ten years on the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), first on question writing committees, then as Chair of the Pulmonary Board, and finally as Secretary-treasurer. The ABIM is the board certifying organization for all the medical specialties, and is in the forefront of the quality movement in medicine. Dr. Patterson was one of very few full-time practitioners on the Board.

As a strong advocate for patients without resources and a tireless member of Project Access, he has helped build a local network of volunteer physicians and other healthcare providers who donate medical services to low-income uninsured individuals in the community. He also continues to lecture about health care costs.

“Jim’s true value as a clinician and educator is demonstrated in many of the other activities he has undertaken during his career,” said Dr. Libby. “He has been an advocate for underserved patients both here and overseas and recently has become involved in medical education and service in third world countries, including lengthy trips to Kenya and Haiti.”

“I can think of no one else during the last 30-plus years who has accumulated the breadth of experience and success in educational activities in clinical pulmonary and critical care medicine,” said Dr. Libby. “It’s no wonder that 50 percent of graduating residents mention him when asked to name one or two people who influenced them the most during training.”

About James Patterson, MD

Dr. Patterson graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in 1968. He trained in Internal Medicine at St. Luke’s and Columbia Presbyterian Medical Centers in New York and then finished his training in the military at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Denver, Colorado with a fellowship in Pulmonary Diseases. He quickly rose in the military to the position of Assistant Chief of Pulmonary Diseases at Madigan Army Medical Center in Washington.

After completing his military obligation in 1975, he joined Providence Portland Medical Center in Portland, Ore., where he worked with a group of thoracic specialists who had a long and unique tradition of collaboration in practice. Dr. Patterson brought to this large, community teaching hospital the skills of a modern pulmonologist with critical care expertise and procedural skills including flexible bronchoscopy. He quickly became a fixture at the hospital, in the critical care units and with the internal medicine residency program.

In spite of the overwhelming clinical load, he became involved in teaching and mentoring at Oregon Health and Sciences University, attending on the pulmonary consultation service for a month each year at the Portland VA Hospital. Under his guidance and influence, the Thoracic Clinic, a group of cardiologists, cardiothoracic surgeons and pulmonary/critical care physicians, grew from seven physicians to 20, then merged with other hospital based specialists to form a group of 120 physicians now known as The Oregon Clinic. His own group of pulmonary and critical care physicians at The Oregon Clinic grew from a single physician --himself-- to 16 physicians with a national reputation for excellence in clinical care, teaching, clinical

research and service to professional organizations. His specific clinical areas of interest today are asthma, COPD, interstitial lung disease, lung malignancies and sleep disorders.

About The Oregon Clinic

The Oregon Clinic is one of the largest private specialty physician practices in Oregon, with more than 120 physicians practicing over 30 different medical and surgical specialties and sub-specialties. We use a team approach to address health conditions at 15 locations from Vancouver to Salem, and from Hood River to Astoria. Founded in 1994, our physicians and staff are committed to delivering the highest quality patient care, practicing evidence-based medicine, and providing leadership for the healthcare community. Visit www.orclinic.com or call 503-935-8000 for more information.

###