



2025 ACGME Lewis Blackman Patient Safety Award Frequently Asked Questions



Why did the ACGME establish the Lewis Blackman Patient Safety Award?

This award honors the life of Lewis Blackman, a vibrant, intelligent young man who died November 6, 2000 when a series of post-operative issues following elective surgery in a teaching hospital were not recognized by the nurses and residents caring for him.

The award recognizes excellence in advancing the education of residents, fellows, and other health care workers by improving communication and enhancing patient safety.

What are the eligibility requirements for nominations?

1. A nominee must be a current resident or fellow in an ACGME-accredited residency or fellowship program at the time of nomination.
2. The resident-/fellow-led project or program must highlight the innovation and leadership of the nominee's work to improve education with demonstrable outcomes in patient safety.
3. Projects or programs that engage patients and patients' families as part of the initiative will receive higher priority.
4. Note that past recipients of the David C. Leach Award or a *Back to Bedside* grant are not eligible.

What is required for a nomination?

A completed Nomination Form must be submitted with four **signed letters** that describe the project or program to improve patient safety at the institution, including the nominee's leadership role in its implementation. The letters of support must be from:

1. The nominee's program director
2. The department's/institution's director/chief of patient safety and quality
3. A faculty member in the nominee's program
4. An additional faculty member or other institutional leader

How should nominations be submitted?

All nominations must be submitted by email according to the directions on the Nomination Form. Email nominations and required materials to DeLonda Dowling: ddowling@acgme.org. Contact Ms. Dowling with questions regarding nomination submission by email or phone: 312.755.5059.

*Note: All nomination materials, including both the Nomination Form and letters of support, must arrive by email in **one PDF (portable PDF files are not acceptable)**. To do this, assemble all materials and scan. The resulting PDF can then be emailed. **Material received in piecemeal will not be accepted.***

What is the deadline for nominations?

All nominations must be emailed before **5:00 p.m. Central on Wednesday, March 27, 2024**. **Nominations received after the deadline and/or submitted piecemeal will not be considered.**

What is awarded?

- Awardees receive a \$1,000 cash award and a plaque.
- If a team wins, the team members will share the cash award and the team will receive one plaque. The project leader will receive the cash award and plaque on behalf of the team. Only the project leader (*must be a resident or fellow*) and one guest will travel courtesy of the ACGME to the 2025 ACGME Annual Educational Conference where the award will be presented.



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- An individual winner will receive the entire cash award and plaque, and the awardee and a guest will travel courtesy of the ACGME to the 2025 Annual Educational Conference.
- Conference registration will be waived for the project leader only.

When will award winners be announced?

Selections will be made by the ACGME Awards Committee at its fall 2024 meeting, and shortly thereafter recipients will be notified. Award announcements will then be published in a press release, the *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*, and the ACGME *e-Communication*, as well as on the ACGME website and social media accounts.

When will the award be presented?

Awards will be presented at the 2025 ACGME Annual Educational Conference.