

# Award: Philip J. Wolfson Outstanding Teacher

## Basic Information

Name

Karen Brasel MD, MPH

Your title:

Professor of Surgery, Program Director of Surgery

Your Institution:

Oregon Health & Science University

Email

[brasel@ohsu.edu](mailto:brasel@ohsu.edu)

Name of nominee:

Mackenzie Cook

Nominee's institution:

Oregon Health & Science University

Nominee's title:

Assistant Professor

Nominee's email address:

[cookmac@ohsu.edu](mailto:cookmac@ohsu.edu)

## Short Essays

Please describe the nominee's innovative approach to teaching (the nominee's personal philosophy of teaching).

Dr. Cook believes in the entrustability of the next generation of physicians while making an intellectually safe space for learners to progress into the zone of proximal development. He approaches his role as a bedside teacher as one who sets "guard rails" and then entrusts his trainees to guide care within those rails. He works closely with his trainees to support their progressive entrustment and will expand or contract these guard rails based to fit the individual learner. In many ways, his personal approach to education mirrors conceptual approach of a competency-based curriculum and, as such, he has been named as our institution's faculty EPA champion for the upcoming EPA implementation.

He is omnipresent as a clinical resource for his trainees, though as long as they are being safe physicians he allows them the room to grow. He truly believes in the nascent excellent of all his trainees and works each day to find their strengths, guide their learning and challenge them to take responsibility for their own education. His evaluations as an educator speak to this progressive entrustment of his trainees and the success they find working with and learning from him.

What educational scholarship is the nominee most proud of and why?

Dr. Cook identifies being selected as the Edward J. Keenan Faculty Commencement speaker by the OHSU graduating class of 2022 as his proudest educational accomplishments. He was the first surgeon to be selected for this honor!

As you can see from his numerous teaching awards in 2020, 2021 and 2022, he has become a highly respected teacher at our institution and the only faculty member ever to receive both outstanding educational leadership and outstanding teaching awards in back-to-back years.

This accomplishment stands out to Dr. Cook not because it is a special honor for his CV, but because of what it represents. The graduating class of 2022 was the class who had their clinical education most disrupted by the COVID pandemic. They crashed out of clinical rotations in March 2020, returning to a vastly different educational landscape with new logistical and medical frames. Through this chaotic time, and as a critical care doctor and ECMO physician, Dr. Cook demonstrated his dedication to educational excellence. Selection as the faculty speaker, and his 2021 and 2022 teaching awards, represent hours of curriculum development, faculty development and advising and mentorship. He is most proud of these awards not for their line on their CV but for the truly monumental amount of educational work they represent.

Please identify the nominee's educational productivity accomplishments including: teaching activities, curricular development, evaluation and assessment innovations, etc.

Dr. Cook is remarkably productive and engaged across the entire spectrum of education - from medical students to continuing medical education. He has a formal educational role as the core clerkship director, directs the Trauma ICU elective and, with the help of his assistant clerkship director, helps to direct the "transition to surgical internship" elective for fourth year medical student.

Within our residency program helps to direct two separate skills labs: laparoscopic common bile duct exploration and our resident skills lab on teaching and feedback. He is recognized as an outstanding GME teacher, being identified in academic year 2021-22 as one the five most highly rated teachers in our surgical residency.

He is also engaging with education at the national level, working on the American Board of Surgery EPA project as a member

of the “best practices” committee, giving invited lectures and contributing to SCORE.

He is additionally involved in CME education as an ATLS state faculty member and member of the 11th ATLS revision team. He is frequently invited as a guest speaker at regional conferences of non-surgical specialties – highlighting his strong communication style and ability to adapt an educational message to any audience. His CME education in particular was recognized in 2019 with an institutional educational award.

## Additional Information

Please list any educational professional development programs that the nominee has attended (workshops, courses, fellowships, certificate/degree programs, etc)

- Residents as Teachers and Leaders
- ATLS Instructors Course
- OHSU Effective Clinical Teaching program
- OHSU Education Scholars Program
- Stanford Faculty Development – Clinical Teaching Series

Please list any education/teaching awards or honors that the nominee has received.

- 2013 Howard P. Lewis Award: Outstanding Teaching by a Senior Resident Voted by the OHSU School of Medicine Graduating Class of 2013
- 2015 American Colleges of Surgeons – Resident Award for Exemplary Teaching, national top ten finalist
- 2016 Roger Alberty MD Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Resident OHSU Department of Surgery
- 2019 Bronze CME Educator Award – OHSU, for dedicated efforts to the continuing education of health professionals.
- 2020 Mentor Flame Award: Exceptional commitment exemplifying the OHSU vision of service. Voted by the OHSU All – Hill Student Council 2019/2020
- 2021 Faculty Hooper for School of Medicine Class of 2021. Voted by the OHSU School of Medicine Graduating Class of 2021
- 2021 Outstanding Leader in Clinical Experience Phase. Voted by the OHSU School of Medicine Graduating Class of 2021
- 2021 David W.E. Baird Award for Excellence in Education by a Junior Faculty. Voted by the OHSU School of Medicine Graduating Class of 2021
- 2022 Outstanding Leader in the Clinical Experiences Phase. Voted by the OHSU School of Medicine Graduating Class of 2022
- 2022 Excellence in Teaching in the Clinical Experiences Phase. One of two awardees selected by the OHSU School of Medicine Graduating Class of 2022
- 2022 Edward J. Keenan Faculty Speaker – Commencement 2022. Selected by the OHSU School of Medicine Graduating Class of 2022
- 2022 “Top Five” Educators in the OHSU Department of Surgery, determined by teaching evaluation score from the general surgery residents during the 2021 – 22 academic year

Please list the names of the mentees of the nominee and the nature of their relationship with them (how long did the nominee mentor the person, what was the focus of the mentorship provided).

- \* 2019 – 2010: Shannon Howard MD: Surgical resident working with Dr. Cook for her academic year on a surgical palliative care needs assessment
- \* 2019 – 2021: Nicholas Hall MD: OHSU SOM Research Capstone Project – PTSD Educational Needs Assessment
- \* 2020 – 2021: Kristen Schultz MD: Surgical resident working with Dr. Cook for her academic year on a surgical palliative curriculum development
- \* 2020 – Present: Emily Weinstein: OHSU SOM Research Capstone Project – Predicting Delayed Mortality after Injury
- \* 2020 – Present: Marija Jozic: OHSU SOM Research Capstone Project – Developing a Palliative Care Curriculum for Medical Students
- \* 2020 – Present: Rachel Ye: OHSU SOM Research Capstone Project – Easing the ICU to Ward Transition for Adult Survivors of Critical Illness
- \* 2021 – Present: Nellie Trenga-Schein: OHSU SOM Palliative Care Focused Research Year

## File Uploads

Please upload the nominee’s CV

- [Curriculum-Vitae-Cook-2022.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter of nomination by a faculty, education administrator, or anyone else with knowledge of the nominee’s

enthusiasm for exemplary teaching and involvement in surgical education.

- [Mac-Cook-ASE-Outstanding-Teacher-Award-2023.pdf](#)

Please upload no more than 2 letter(s) of support from individuals with direct knowledge of the nominee's surgical education involvement and outstanding teaching. Commentary on role modeling of professional characteristics and accessibility would be appreciated.

- [Peraza-Hernandez-LOR-Cook-ASE-Award-Combined.pdf](#)

Please upload documentation of teaching excellence in the form of an aggregate evaluation report (from MedHub, New Innovations, etc) from learners over the past 6 - 12 months. (file upload)

- [Cook-Mackenzie---Emergency-General-Surgery.pdf](#)