

AUR Gold Medalist Tribute

Richard B. Gunderman, MD, PhD

Introduction by Brandon P. Brown, MD

The AUR awards its highest honor, the Gold Medal, in recognition of unusually distinguished service, contributions to the organization, and to academic radiology broadly. This year, I am thrilled to introduce Richard B. Gunderman, MD, PhD, MPH as the recipient of the AUR Gold Medal. There is no doubt that he is an exceptional luminary to all radiologists, and to physicians generally, through his dedicated and tireless service to medical education and to the mission of the AUR. That mission statement includes the following phrase: “to stimulate an interest in academic radiology as a medical career; to advance radiology as a medical science; and to represent academic radiology at a national level.” These words are a remarkably apt description of the legacy of Richard Gunderman.

Growing up in Indiana, Dr. Gunderman received his undergraduate training at Wabash College, before heading to the University of Chicago for his graduate education. He earned an MD, and also a PhD through the university’s interdisciplinary Committee on Social Thought, and stayed on in Chicago for his residency training. Dr. Gunderman returned to Indiana in 1997 for fellowship training in Pediatric Radiology at Riley Hospital for Children and joined the faculty at Indiana University the following year, where he continues to work. Over more than 20 years on the faculty, he has been instrumental in setting the standard for the physician-educator, teaching nearly 30 unique courses in medicine, philosophy, philanthropy, and the medical humanities, many of them repeatedly over numerous years. He is Chancellor’s Professor of Radiology at Indiana University, and for more than 15 years he has served as the vice-chair for education in the Department of Radiology which includes his direction of the 4th-year medical student course in radiology at what is now the largest medical school in the United States. He has won every teaching award at the IU School of Medicine, some of them more than 10 times. He is past president of the faculty at Indiana University School of Medicine and is president-elect of the medical staff for Indiana University Health.

His contributions have extended beyond Indiana, as well. Dr. Gunderman has been extremely active within the AUR. In 1998, he was a recipient of the AUR GE Radiology Research Academic Fellowship Award, and he has mentored trainees in winning the Goldberg, the Whitley, and the Memorial Awards. Over the last 18 years, he has published well more than 100 articles in *Academic Radiology* alone, and is presently deputy editor of that journal. He has served on the Board of Directors for the AUR since 2009. Elsewhere, he was named the 2008 Outstanding Educator by the RSNA, was the 2011 American Roentgen Ray Society Berlin Scholar in Professionalism, and in 2012 was the Distinguished

Educator of the American Roentgen Ray Society. He was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters by Garrett Theological Seminary at Northwestern University in 2012.

Dr. Gunderman’s remarkable breadth of expertise is surpassed only by his ability to interweave knowledge and insights from numerous disciplines into a cohesive beacon which he frequently shines upon the practice of medicine and medical imaging through his indefatigable speaking and writing. During his career he has authored more than 700 articles and delivered over 700 keynote addresses, named lectures, and grand rounds presentations. He has written 13 books, including “Essential Radiology” and “X-ray Vision.” In reviewing one of his books, *JAMA* referred to him as “eloquent, quotable, and inspirational.” His articles have been featured in *The Atlantic*, *The Conversation*, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, and each of our radiologic journals, including his frequent “Educational Perspectives” in *Academic Radiology*.

It would be easy to calculate his influence by the quantity and quality of his scholarship and his recognitions. Yet it would be lacking because more than all these achievements, Dr. Gunderman’s greatest impact is seen through the thousands of medical students, residents, and fellows – many now AUR members – that he has mentored. I first met Dr. Gunderman 17 years ago, when I came to IU School of Medicine. Like many others, I

was drawn to choose the field of radiology due to his influence, and was guided in that choice throughout residency, fellowship, and into my own career. He helped me publish my first article in radiology, enabled my first position in a national society, facilitated my first speaking invitation. Despite his responsibilities, he is never too preoccupied to help those who seek his support. It would be rare to hear him speak of himself, and he continually redirects the spotlight of recognition toward others. Most of us are committed to serving with excellence in our own careers, yet regularly one can witness Dr. Gunderman going beyond this, focusing his energy on helping all those around him rise to the best versions of themselves.

Those of us who work with him in the hospital can recount how the radiology department will often be frequented by a stream of students, some local and some visiting, waiting for the opportunity to meet with him and seek his advice. His impact is evidenced through the lives of physicians in hospitals, clinics, and private practices around the country. For his selfless and dedicated service that has affected the lives of so many, the AUR is proud to award the 2020 Gold Medal Award to Richard B. Gunderman.



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