

Dr. Hanson Selected by CCME to Receive Harris Award in 2006

In 2006, Laura Hanson, MD, MPH, clinical coordinator for the long term care team at The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence (CCME), had received the distinguished T. Reginald Harris, MD Award, in conjunction with the fall meeting of the North Carolina Medical Society.

Dr. Hanson, the eighth physician to receive the award, is a board-certified geriatrician and general internist with added training in health policy and epidemiological research. She is an associate professor of medicine at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and co-director of the UNC Center for Health Ethics and Policy, while also serving as a clinical coordinator at CCME.

“Dr. Hanson demonstrates the same high level of commitment to improve quality of care and service to the medical community as Dr. Harris,” said Dr. Donald Wallace, the then CCME president of the board of directors. “I fully agree with one of Dr. Hanson’s nominators who said her efforts have lead to measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to older adults and other vulnerable populations, in more effective long-term care oversights systems and policies, and in the compassionate practice of medicine. CCME could choose no better person to receive this award.”

In addition to her work with CCME and UNC School of Medicine, Dr. Hanson maintains a clinical practice serving people at the end of their lives. She also contributes professional and public service at the state and national levels, volunteering her time to the NC Institute of Medicine, the NC End of Life Care Coalition, and the Penalty Review Committee of the NC Department of Human Resources. Dr. Hanson also serves on the Ethics Committee of the Society of General Internal Medicine.

Another nominator best summed up Dr. Hanson’s contributions by saying, “The doctor deeply believes in the rights of all individuals, despite how our society may devalue a group. Her choice to work with people who are frail, or dying, demonstrates a commitment that most people would shy away from. To the good fortune of their patients, colleagues, and the organizations she works with, she has immeasurable intellect and is not faint of heart. She embraces quality improvement approaches to channel her resolve that we do a better job at healthcare. Every person counts in her equation for a better system of care.”