

## **Dr. Thomas Read**

### **Research Foundation of the ASCRS Mentor Award – 2016**

The Mentor Award was established in 1992 by the Research Foundation of ASCRS. The Young Researchers' Committee of the Research Foundation selects the recipient of the award with final approval by the Research Foundation Board of Trustees. This prestigious award is given every other year. The award is given to a surgeon who has made an exceptional contribution in mentoring residents/colleagues and has shown a commitment to academic/clinical excellence as well as nurturing the careers of junior colleagues to further their career development.



A mentor has been described as a developer of talent, a teacher of skills and knowledge of the discipline, an assistant in defining goals and one who shares social and professional values. The qualities of a mentor include an individual who serves as a professional role model, who stays involved, is compassionate, kind and supportive, acts as a critical, evaluator or assessor and is a leader in the field and challenges the mentee.

Dr. Thomas Read exemplifies these characteristics and is a well deserving recipient of the 2016 ASCRS Research Foundation Mentor's Award. He had had a profound impact on mentoring and inspiring countless medical students, general surgery residents, colon and rectal residents, young faculty and other individuals.

Tom received his B.A. degree cum laude in biology from Harvard University and received a medical degree with honors (AOA) from the University of California, San Francisco, where he also completed a residency in general surgery and a basic science research fellowship, investigating the effects of lipoproteins on endotoxemia and sepsis. While originally interested in cardiothoracic surgery, he was greatly influenced by Dr. Tom Russell and decided to pursue a career in colon and rectal surgery completing a residency at the Lahey Clinic in 1996.

He then practiced as Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine for five years. During his tenure at Washington University he was recognized with a total of 8 teaching awards including the outstanding teacher award from the Association for Surgical Education in 2001. He was Chief of the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital and Associate Professor of Surgery at Temple University School of Medicine from 2001-2008 where he founded the colon and rectal residency in Pittsburgh in 2004 and served as Program Director until 2008 when he relocated to Boston to assume his current position as senior staff surgeon and served as program director of the colon and rectal residency program.

Tom has been recognized as an outstanding teacher amassing 16 awards for teaching, education and mentorship including being awarded the Sedgwick Mentor Award twice by the general surgery residents at Lahey. He is equally proficient teaching in the operating room, endoscopy unit and outpatient clinics and pushes trainees to critically appraise all clinical scenarios to develop a well thought out logical treatment plan. He has continued to work tirelessly with his trainees to advise on difficult cases, practice challenges and career decisions.

He has pushed his trainees to develop critical appraisal skills to evaluate the literature and he has served as Co-Editor of our journal Disease of the Colon and Rectum and as an Associate Editor for Annals of Surgery. He has served as an Associate Editor for Colorectal Disease and Clinics in Colon and Rectal Surgery, and as an ad hoc reviewer for multiple other peer-reviewed journals.

His clinical and research interests have included the prevention and treatment of colorectal cancer, with a particular focus on rectal cancer. He has published over 75 original manuscripts in peer reviewed journals, in addition to abstracts, book, chapters, reviews and invited commentaries. He has worked collaboratively in multidisciplinary teams to optimize the care of the patient with rectal cancer engaging pathologists, radiologists, oncologists and medical oncologists.

He has held prominent leadership positions in the Society, Board and other organizations. As Chair of the Written Examination Committee, Chair of the Examination Committee and President of the Board he has made major contributions to improving the examination process including the development of question writing seminars, optimization of the question bank and transition of the written examination to test centers. He has currently serves on the Executive

Council of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons and has served as Chair of the Program Committee and Chair of the Quality and Safety Committee.

On behalf of the Young Researchers Committee of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeon's Research Foundation, we are honored to present the Mentor Award to Dr. Thomas Read in recognition of his commitment and dedication to training and mentoring. May we all have a mentor such as Dr. Read to support and guide our life's journey!