



2026 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 ACGME's 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; and,
4. An additional faculty member or other institutional leader.

How do I make a nomination?

Download the Nomination Form from the ACGME website, complete it, and submit it along with four **signed** support letters according to the directions on the form. All materials (Nomination Form and support letters) must arrive by email in **one PDF (portable PDF files are not acceptable)**. To do this, assemble all materials, scan them, then email the resulting PDF.

Material received in piecemeal or that includes unsigned letters will not be accepted.

Direct any questions to DeLonda Bonasera: dbonasera@acgme.org or 312.755.5059.

What is the deadline for nominations?

All nominations must be emailed before **5:00 p.m. Central on Wednesday, March 12, 2025**.

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.
- **Team winners:** 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 (*who must be a resident or fellow*) and one guest will travel courtesy of the ACGME to the 2026 ACGME Annual Educational Conference, where the award will be presented. Conference registration will be waived for the project leader only. The 2026 conference will take place on February 19-21 in San Diego, California.



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- **Individual winners:** 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 2026 Annual Educational Conference. Conference registration will be waived for the awardee. The 2026 conference will take place on February 19-21 in San Diego, California.

When will award winners be announced?

Selections will be made by the ACGME Awards Committee at its fall 2025 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 2026 ACGME Annual Educational Conference.