Williams selected as recipient of David A. Peterson Award

Brent C. Williams, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor of Internal Medicine, was selected for the David A. Peterson Award for Best Paper of the 2008 Volume of Gerontology and Geriatrics Education. Williams was lead author for the paper entitled, “Successful Implementation of a Faculty Development Program in Geriatrics for Non-Primary Care Physician Educators.”

The four-year faculty development program enhanced geriatrics learning among house officers in seven surgical and related disciplines and five medical subspecialties. The program resulted in changes in attitudes and knowledge of faculty participants, expanded curricula and teaching activities in geriatrics, and enhanced and altered career trajectories of faculty participants. The program centered on problem-oriented small-group seminars with concurrent application of new skills. Key success factors included securing the active support of institutional leaders, focus on career development, examining presumptions regarding professional scope, protected time for faculty participants, and provision of teaching and evaluation resources for individualized application by faculty.

Co-authors are Amy R. Schigelone, Ph.D., and James T. Fitzgerald, Ph.D., University of Michigan Department of Medical Education; and Jeffrey B. Halter, M.D., University of Michigan Geriatrics Center.

The Peterson Award recognizes excellence in scholarship in academic gerontology. In addition to writing style, manuscripts are evaluated on innovation, the soundness of their approach, and their significance to and implications for gerontology and geriatrics education.

The award was named after Dr. David A. Peterson to salute his pioneering work in gerontology education. This award has been made possible by a generous donation from The Haworth Press.