

[Authoring](#)

# Graduate Dean's Award for Excellence in Mentorship

[2012 Call for Nominations](#)

Click this link for a PDF of the Call for Nominations, eligibility requirements, and nomination form.

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gradsch: mentorship

A mentor is not just an educator. A mentor is a person who inspires and motivates. A mentor is committed to excellence. The *Dean's Excellence in Mentorship Award* recognizes full-time regular UAB faculty members who have demonstrated exceptional accomplishments as mentors of graduate students and/or postdoctoral fellows.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF AN OUTSTANDING MENTOR

### Personal Characteristics

- Demonstrates effective leadership skills
- Is enthusiastic
- Is respectful
- Is unselfish
- Is patient
- Is self confident
- Is honest
- Is flexible
- Is sensitive
- Appreciates individual differences
- Supports all trainees irrespective of their faculty affiliation

### Teaching and Communication

- Is an effective communicator
- Is regarded as an excellent teacher
- Makes difficult information and concepts understandable
- Adjusts presentations to audience level
- Welcomes questions and alternative interpretations

### Mentoring Characteristics

- Believes in the importance of mentoring
- Has an open door policy
- Is a careful listener
- Provides inspiration and optimism

- Balances guidance and independence
- Encourages creative thinking
- Celebrates trainee successes
- Teaches the art of critique
- Treats all trainees as colleagues
- Demonstrates ethical conduct of scholarly activity
- Understands differences among cultural, gender, and ethnic groups
- Solicits advice from other experienced mentors
- Advises trainees to seek out multiple mentors
- Promotes network building
- Serves as a role model
- Promotes personal and intellectual growth of trainees
- Provides opportunities for skills development
  - Hones communication skills, research presentations, and teaching
  - Assists with manuscript preparation
  - Directs development of grant proposals
  - Coaches people skills, leadership, and teamwork
  - Teaches non academic skills: administration, management, and budgeting
- Serves as a career advisor
  - Fosters independence
  - Supports career objectives of students and postdocs
  - Wants trainees to be successful
  - Assists trainees with identifying and securing their next career opportunity
- Stays in touch after trainees have completed their training
- Derives great satisfaction from following the successful career trajectories of previous trainees

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### **2011 Award Recipients**

Michael Brooks, PhD, Human Studies  
 Steven Carroll, MD, PhD, Neuropathology  
 Nikolai Chernov, PhD, Mathematics  
 Noel K. Childers, DDS, Pediatric Dentistry  
 Loucrecia Collins, EdD, Educational Leadership  
 John Heith Copes, PhD, Justice Sciences  
 Terje Dokland, PhD, Microbiology  
 Robert Fischer, PhD, Biology  
 Roderick Fullard, OD, PhD, Vision Sciences  
 W. Timothy Garvey, MD, Nutrition Sciences  
 Barbara Gower, PhD, Nutrition Sciences  
 Amjad Javed, PhD, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery  
 Julie Locher, PhD, Gerontology  
 Lori McMahon, PhD, Physiology & Biophysics  
 Nir Menachemi, PhD, Health Care Organization & Policy  
 Linda Moneyham, PhD, Nursing  
 Tim R. Nagy, PhD, Nutrition Sciences  
 Linda Searby, PhD, Educational Leadership  
 Rosa Serra, PhD, Cell Biology  
 John Van Sant, PhD, History & Anthropology  
 Rosalyn Weller, PhD, Psychology  
 Nengjun Yi, PhD, Biostatistics

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### **2010 Award Recipients**

David D. Chaplin, MD, PhD – Microbiology  
 Shelia R. Cotton, PhD – Sociology & Social Work  
 José R. Fernández, PhD – Nutrition Sciences  
 Frank Franklin, MD, PhD – Health Behavior  
 Nataliya V. Ivankova, PhD – Human Studies  
 Pauline E. Jolly, PhD – Epidemiology  
 Ho-Wook Jun, PhD – Biomedical Engineering  
 John F. Kearney, PhD – Microbiology  
 Connie L. Kohler, PhD – Health Behavior  
 Claudiu T. Lungu, PhD – Environmental Health Sciences  
 Raymond A. Mohl, PhD – History and Anthropology  
 Michael H. Mugavero, MD – Medicine (Infectious Diseases)  
 R. Kent Oestenstad, PhD – Environmental Health Sciences  
 Sarah H. Parcak, PhD – History and Anthropology  
 David L. Roth, PhD – Biostatistics  
 Virginia P. Sisiopiku, PhD – Civil, Construction & Environmental Engineering  
 Harald W. Sontheimer, PhD – Neurobiology  
 Hemant K. Tiwari, PhD – Biostatistics  
 M. Tino Unlap, PhD – Clinical & Diagnostic Sciences  
 David E. Vance, PhD – Family/Child Health & Caregiving  
 Peter M. Walsh, PhD – Mechanical Engineering  
 Thane Wibbels, PhD – Biology

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### **2009 Recipients**

[Graciela S. Alarcon, M.D., Epidemiology](#)  
[Victor Darley-Usmar, Ph.D., Molecular and Cellular Pathology](#)  
 Louis J. Dell'Italia, M.D., Medicine  
 Brian F. Geiger, Ed.D., Education-Human Studies  
[Ian W. Knowles, Ph.D., Mathematics](#)  
 Lesley E. Smythies, Ph.D., Medicine  
[Stephen A. Watts, Ph.D., Biology](#)

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### **2008 Recipients**

[Gypsy Abbott, Ph.D., Education--Human Studies](#)  
[Susan Appel, Ph.D., Nursing--Adult/Acute Health](#)  
[Susan Bellis, Ph.D., Physiology and Biophysics](#)  
[Jeffrey Clair, Ph.D., Sociology](#)  
[Christine Curcio, Ph.D., Ophthalmology](#)  
 Retta Evans, Ph.D., Education--Human Studies  
[John Hablitz, Ph.D., Neurobiology](#)  
 James Hagood, M.D., Pediatrics  
 Gary Hunter, Ph.D., Education--Human Studies  
 Raymond Ideker, M.D., Medicine  
[Robin Lorenze, M.D./Ph.D., Pathology](#)  
 John Mountz, M.D., Medicine  
[Peter Prevelige, Ph.D., Microbiology](#)  
[Robert Thacker, Ph.D., Biology](#)  
[Dan Welch, Ph.D., Molecular and Cellular Pathology](#)  
 Dale Williams, Ph.D., Preventive Medicine

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