



Section 1 – Nomination Process

Eligible Nominators

Nominations received from individuals other than those listed below will not be considered and are not included in the materials provided to the AUA Awards Committee. Diversity of nominees is encouraged [geographic sections, member categories (urologist, researchers, advanced practice providers, international), practice type (academic, private practice), specialty areas].

- Each **Section** may submit one nomination for each award category. If no suitable candidate is available, Sections may choose not to submit a nominee for an award category.
- **Urology Residency Program Chairs and Directors** may submit nominations for the Gold Cystoscope Award and Mid-Career Award only.
- Health Advancement & Impact Nominations are collected using an open call to all **AUA members** on AUA website (June-Sept). Member-sponsored nominations are accepted for this award.
- **Historian** may submit a nomination for the William P. Didusch Art & History Award only.
- **AUA Staff Executive Strategy Team and CEO** may submit nominations for Distinguished Service only.
- Members from the **International Member Committee** (comprised of countries that have more than 75 AUA member) may submit nominations for key awards categories of Ramon Guiteras, Hugh Hampton Young, Lifetime Achievement, Mid-Career and Distinguished Contribution.
- Presidential Citations are given at the discretion of the **AUA President**.

Nomination Details

- All nominations must be submitted using the online web portal and include:
 - Nomination summary that includes one paragraph for each award criteria (see pages 5-8)
*****NEW FORMAT THIS YEAR*****
 - NIH Format [Biosketch](#) (or abbreviated CV no more than four pages). PDF file format required.
 - Digital photo
 - High-resolution digital photo in either JPEG, GIF or PNG format with a minimum file size of 1MB (1000 KB) and may not exceed 15 MB file size.
 - Nominees should be wearing a suit or white coat and the photo should have a neutral background.
 - Brief professional biography (no more than one page). PDF file format required.
 - Cell phone number for awards notification.
- Nominations Summaries
 - All nominations must include a summary of the nominee's qualifications for the committee to consider. **Evaluation criteria for each award are provided (see pages 6-10). Nomination summaries must address each criterion.**
 - Members of the Section Nominating Committee should be charged with drafting the Nomination Summaries. A Section nominee may be contacted to solicit input regarding the content but should not write their own nominations. Refer to *Writing an AUA Awards Nomination* for guidance in drafting nominations (see page 12). **Self-nominations or nominations written in the first person are not accepted.**
 - Incomplete nominations are not accepted.

Nomination Timing

- All Nominations are due by **September 15th**. Timely receipt of nominations is required to afford committee members an opportunity to review and score nominations. Nominators are encouraged to hold meetings during the summer in order to meet this deadline. **Late nominations are not accepted.**
- Only nominations submitted June 1, 2025 – September 15, 2025 will be considered for a 2026 Award.
- Triennial Awards are not presented this year.
 - Robert C. Flanigan Education Award will be presented in 2027.
 - Eugene Fuller Triennial Prostate Award will be presented in 2028.

Eligibility Restrictions

- In order to recognize the many achievements of respected urologists, the AUA does not encourage (1) repeat winners or (2) nominating the same individuals in multiple categories in the same nomination cycle.
- As a general principle AUA Awards are given for national AUA activities or international advances in urology. Leadership contributions at a state, Society or Section level should be recognized by those organizations.
- Past Committee Chairs, Council Chairs and Editors are recognized for their service as physician consultants to the AUA at the conclusion of their term. A plaque is presented at their last meeting highlighting their accomplishments. These individuals are not routinely presented with an AUA Award for the same service. They may be considered to receive awards for other career achievements in urology or lifetime service in their programmatic area.
- Membership
 - The association's awards are limited to AUA members whether the nominee is a domestic or international urologist. Membership is not required for awards presented to non-urologists. (e.g., Didusch Award presented to an illustrator, Distinguished Service given to a US Senator).
 - Any member currently under disciplinary action from the AUA Board (either rebuke or expulsion) is not eligible for consideration of an AUA award until such time as the nominee is reinstated as a member in good standing.
- Individuals who receive AUA's highest honor, Ramon Guiteras Award, are not eligible to receive any subsequent awards.
- Gold Cystoscope Nominations. Nominees must be within 10 years of original residency date (calculated backward using the Award Year 2026, not the nomination year 2025). Nominees must have completed residency no earlier than **June 2016** to be considered.
- Mid-Career Nominees must be within 10-20 years of completing residency (eligible range: **June 2006-June 2015** for a 2026 award)
- Lifetime Achievement Nominees must have been AUA Members for at least 25 years.
*****NEW***** This is calculated by using the AUA's "Member Since" date indicating the year the member first joined the AUA.
- The Ramon Guiteras Award is AUA's highest honor. Winners are not eligible to receive any subsequent awards.
- The Gold-Headed Cane Award is for individuals who have not previously received any other AUA Award. These individuals will not be presented with any other award after winning the Gold-Headed Cane Award. Past AUA Officers are not eligible.
- Prior service as AUA President does not exclude an individual from receiving an award for scientific achievements made after his/her presidential term.
- Lifetime Achievement Award is the only category that accepts posthumous nominations.

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- The AUA reserves the right to rescind an award that based on nomination content later found to be inadvertently misrepresented or intentionally fraudulent. Additionally, the AUA may, by a two-thirds vote of its directors, rescind an award previously presented to an individual who has since committed grave misconduct that would bring discredit to the association. The AUA Board in its sole discretion is the final arbiter of these matters.

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Ineligible List

In an effort to reduce perceived conflicts, some individuals are excluded from consideration for an AUA Award during their terms of service. The following individuals are not eligible because they are members of the Board of Directors, Awards Committee, or are a physician consultant during the 2026 Awards Cycle. Note that the period of ineligibility only applies during their term of service. These individuals will be eligible again once their terms as a board member or physician consultant have concluded. Consultants are eligible for awards during their “elect” year prior to assuming chair or editor positions.

The ineligible list does not apply for nominees for the time sensitive Gold Cystoscope Award.

Members of the Health Advancement & Impact Committee are not eligible to receive the Health Advancement & Impact Award but are eligible to be nominated and receive other AUA Awards.

Category	Role	Name
Awards Committee	Chair	Edward Messing, MD
Awards Committee	Past President	Randall Meacham, MD
Awards Committee	Immediate Past President	Stephen Nakada, MD
Awards Committee	President	Lane Palmer, MD
Awards Committee	President-elect	Eugene Rheer, MD
Awards Committee	Secretary	David Penson, MD
Awards Committee	Treasurer	Jennifer Miles-Thomas, MD, MBA
Board Member	Mid-Atlantic Section Representative	Arthur (Bud) Burnett, MD
Board Member	New England Section Representative	Adam Kibel, MD
Board Member	New York Section Representative	Jay Motola, MD
Board Member	North Central Section Representative	Tobias Kohler, MD
Board Member	Northeastern Section Representative	Ronald Kaufman Jr., MD
Board Member	South Central Section Representative	Damara Kaplan, MD
Board Member	Southeastern Section Representative	Glenn Preminger, MD
Board Member	Western Section Representative	Christopher Porter, MD
Board Member	Urology Care Foundation President	Harris M. Nagler, MD
Physician Consultant	Health Advancement & Impact Committee Chair	Denise Asafu-Adjei, MD
Physician Consultant	HAIC FUTURE Program Consultant	Larissa Bresler, MD
Physician Consultant	Associate Secretary – Asia	Jaspreet Sandhu, MD
Physician Consultant	Associate Secretary – Europe/Middle East	Jose Karam, MD
Physician Consultant	Associate Secretary – South-Central America Caribbean	Jorge Gutierrez-Aceves, MD
Physician Consultant	Education Chair	Mark Gonzalgo, MD
Physician Consultant	Update Series Editor	J. Christian Winters, MD
Physician Consultant	Public Policy Chair	Mark Edney, MD
Physician Consultant	Coding & Reimbursement Chair	Anurag Das, MD
Physician Consultant	CPT Advisor	Jay Motola, MD
Physician Consultant	Science & Quality Chair	Matthew E. Nielsen, MD
Physician Consultant	Data Chair	Hung-Jui Tan, MD
Physician Consultant	Practice Guidelines Chair	David Ginsberg, MD, MD
Physician Consultant	Quality Improvement & Patient Safety Chair	Andrew M. Harris, MD
Physician Consultant	Research Chair	H. Henry Lai, MD
Physician Consultant	Museum Curator	Sutchin Patel, MD
Physician Consultant	AUANews Editor	Stacy Tanaka, MD
Physician Consultant	The Journal of Urology Editor	D. Robert Siemens, MD
Physician Consultant	Urology Practice Editor	Katheleen Kobashi, MD
Physician Consultant	JU Open Plus Editor	John W. Davis, MD

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Individuals that previously won the Ramon Guiteras or Gold-Headed Cane Awards are not eligible to win subsequent awards in other categories.

Ramon Guiteras Winners

Joseph A. Smith Jr., MD	2025
John Denstedt, MD	2024
Peter R. Carroll, MD, MPH	2023
Glenn M. Preminger, MD	2022
Ian M. Thompson Jr., MD	2021
William J. Catalona, MD	2020
Arthur D. Smith, MD,	2019
Edward M. Messing, MD, FACS	2018
Robert C. Flanigan, MD	2017
W. Marston Linehan, MD	2016
John M. Barry, MD	2015
Peter T. Scardino, MD	2014
Jean B. deKernion, MD	2013
Anthony Atala, MD	2012
E. Darracott Vaughan Jr., MD	2011
Ralph V. Clayman, MD	2010
Jack W. McAninch, MD	2009
Andrew C. Novick, MD	2008
Donald G. Skinner, MD	2007
Alan B. Retik, MD	2006
John P. Donohue, MD	2005
Patrick C. Walsh, MD	2004
Victor A. Politano, MD	2003
Earl F. Nation, MD	2002
H. Logan Holtgrewe, MD	2001
Emil A. Tanagho, MD	2000
Jay Y. Gillenwater, MD	1999
William H. Boyce, MD	1998
Charles J. Devine, Jr., MD	1997
James Tate Mason Jr., MD	1996
Thomas A. Stamey, MD	1995
John T. Grayhack, MD	1994
Paul C. Peters, MD	1993
Joseph B. Dowd, MD	1992
Willard E. Goodwin, MD	1991
William L. Valk, MD	1990
C. Eugene Carlton Jr., MD	1989
Paul J. Schildt, MD	1988
Jack Lapides, MD	1987
Joseph J. Kaufman, MD	1986
Frank Hinman Jr., MD	1985
Willet F. Whitmore III, MD	1984
William W. Scott, MD	1983
Donald J. Jaffar, MD	1982
Russell Scott Jr., MD	1981
John K. Lattimer, MD	1980
Roger W. Barnes, MD	1979
Justin J. Cordonnier, MD	1978
Charles A. Hoffman, MD	1977
Samuel L. Raines, MD	1976
Victor F. Marshall, MD	1975
Donald R. Smith, MD	1974
William N. Wishard Jr., MD	1973
Harry M. Spence, MD	1972
Wyland F. Leadbetter Jr., MD	1971
William P. Herbst Jr., MD	1970
Charles C. Higgins, MD	1969
Rubin H. Flocks, MD	1968
Reed M. Nesbit, MD	1967
Charles C. Huggins, MD	1966
J. Hartwell Harrison, MD	1965
Edgar Burns, MD	1964
Hugh J. Jewett, MD	1963

Gold Headed Cane Winners

Douglass A. Husmann	2025
Gregory A. Broderick, MD	2024
Muhammad S. Choudhury, MD	2023
Julio M. Pow-Sang, MD	2022
Sanford Siegel, MD	2021
Daniel J. Culkin, MD, MBA	2020
R. John D'A. Honey, MD	2019
George W. Kaplan, MD	2018
John J. Mulcahy, MD, PHD, MS	2017
Paul H. Lange, MD, FACS	2016
Gilbert J. Wise, MD	2015
Robert E. Donohue, MD	2014
Pablo A. Morales, MD	2013
Randall G. Rowland, MD, PHD	2012
David T. Uehling, MD	2011
William W. Bohnert, MD	2010
Stephen C. Jacobs, MD	2009
Roger V. Haglund, MD	2008
Terrence R. Malloy, MD	2008
Eugene C. St. Martin, MD	2007
John C. Prince, MD	2006
Ruben F. Gittes, MD	2005
William L. Parry, MD	2004
Ralph A. Straffon, MD	2003
R. Dixon Walker III, MD	2003
James H. DeWeerd, MD	2002
Lester Persky, MD	2002
Charles E. Hawtrey, MD	2001
Hal K. Mardis, MD	2001
Harry C. Miller Jr., MD	2000
John W. Weigel, MD	2000
W. Lamar Weems, MD	1999
Andrew W. Bruce, MD	1998
Roy Witherington, MD	1997
Charles A. Hulse, MD	1996
Samuel S. Ambrose, MD	1995
Peter L. Scardino, MD	1994
Robert A. Garrett, MD	1993
W. Dabney Jarman, MD	1993
John D. Young, MD	1992
George R. Nagamatsu, MD	1991

AUA Distinguished Awards Selection Process & Definitions

Nomination Scoring & Selection

- All nominations are evaluated based on the award evaluation criteria. The criteria are designed to ensure that awards recognized efforts aligned with the AUA's mission and strategic goals.
- Nominees for the Health Advancement & Impact Award undergo an initial review by members of the Health Advancement & Impact Committee Awards Review subcommittee. The top five scoring individuals are submitted to AUA Award Committee for consideration.
- The AUA Awards Committee meets in November to select winners based on evaluation criteria for each award.
- All winners are notified by phone in late November with winners announced in the first week of December.

Ramon Guiteras

The Ramon Guiteras Award may be awarded annually to an individual who is deemed to have made outstanding contributions to the art and science of urology.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Pioneering scientific research that advances urology
2. Urologic education through training, mentorship and teaching (e.g., residents, fellows & medical students)
3. Clinical expertise and patient care

Number of Recipients: 1

Monetary Award: \$3,000

Award Established 1963

Hugh Hampton Young

The Hugh Hampton Young Award may be presented annually to an individual for outstanding contributions to the study of genitourinary tract disease.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Scientific research for the prevention and treatment of genitourinary tract disease (e.g., congenital abnormalities and disorders such as cancer, trauma, infection, urolithiasis and inflammation).
2. Urologic education through training, mentorship and teaching (e.g., residents, fellows & medical students)
3. Clinical expertise and patient care

Number of Recipients: 1

Monetary Award: \$2,000

Award Established 1969

Gold Cystoscope

The Gold Cystoscope Award may be presented annually to a urologist distinguished by outstanding contributions to the profession.

Timeframe Criteria: individual must be within ten (10) years of completing residency training calculated using the Awards presentation year minus the year originally graduated residency (e.g., eligible range 2016 – 2025 for a 2026 award).

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Pioneering scientific research that advances urology
2. Clinical expertise and patient care

Number of Recipients: 1

Monetary Award: \$2,000

Award Established 1969

Mid-Career

Mid-Career Award may be presented annually to a urologist distinguished by outstanding contributions to the profession in research, clinical urology and/or advocacy.

Timeframe Criteria: individual must be within ten (10) to twenty (20) years of completing residency training calculated using the Awards presentation year minus the year originally graduated residency (e.g., eligible range 2006 – 2015 for a 2026 award).

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Pioneering scientific research or impactful advocacy that advances the interests of urology
2. Urologic education through training, mentorship and teaching (e.g., residents, fellows & medical students)
3. Clinical expertise and patient care

Number of Recipients: 1

Monetary Award: \$2,000

Award Established 2022

Lifetime Achievement

The Lifetime Achievement Award may be presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to advance the mission and goals of the AUA at the local, national or international level.

Timeframe Criteria: individual must be practice urology at least 25 years calculated using the Awards presentation year minus the board certification date.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. A lifetime of contributions to advance the mission and goals of the AUA
AUA's mission is to promote the highest standards of urological clinical care through education, research and the formulation of health care policy.
2. A lifetime of urologic leadership

Number of Recipients: 1

Monetary Award: \$2,000

Award Established 2009

Eugene Fuller Triennial Prostate (next presented in 2028)

The Eugene Fuller Triennial Prostate Award may be given once every three years to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the study of the prostate gland and its associated diseases.

Timeframe Criteria: Presented once every three years

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Research to advance care for prostate cancer and benign prostate diseases
2. Education on prostate cancer or benign prostate diseases

Number of Recipients: 1

Monetary Award: \$2,000

Award Established 1977

Endowment: Trust fund established by the family of the late Dr. Eugene Fuller

Robert C. Flanigan Education (next presented in 2027)

The Robert C. Flanigan Education Award may be given once every three years to an individual who has made exemplary contributions to the educational goals of the American Urological Association at the local, national or international level.

Timeframe Criteria: Presented once every three years

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Urologic education through training, mentorship and teaching (e.g., residents, fellows & medical students)
2. Leadership positions on AUA Education Committees and AUA courses to help further education within urology

Number of Recipients: 1

Monetary Award: \$2,000

Award Established 2012

Victor A. Politano

The Victor A. Politano Award may be presented annually to an individual (e.g. urologist, basic scientist, researcher, biomedical engineer, etc.) for outstanding achievements in the field of urinary incontinence and for enhancing the treatment of incontinent patients.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Research in pharmacologic or medical device interventions for incontinence
2. Clinical expertise and care for patients with incontinence and voiding issues

Number of Recipients: 1

Monetary Award: \$2,000

Award Established 2008

Endowment: Trust fund established by Dr. & Mrs. Politano and the Applebaum Foundation.

William P. Didusch Art & History

The William P. Didusch Art and History Award may be presented annually to recognize contributions to urological art (e.g. illustrations, sculpture, still photography, videos) or lifetime contributions to the history of urology.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Impact on the history of urology.
2. Artistic contribution in one or more of following areas:
 - a. Illustrations
 - b. Sculptures
 - c. Photography
 - d. videos

Number of Recipients: 1

Monetary Award: \$1,000

Award Established 1983

Health Advancement & Impact

The Health Advancement & Impact Award may be presented annually for outstanding efforts to drive meaningful changes to address disparities within healthcare.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Impactful contributions in one or more of the following areas:
 - a. Research in healthcare disparities to improve patient outcomes
 - b. Education initiatives to improve community access to quality care
 - c. Mentorship and recruitment of medical students into urology
2. Innovative Leadership to address disparities within healthcare
 - a. Implementation of sustainable solutions using new strategies or novel applications of existing methods (e.g., care delivery models, community-based interventions).
 - b. Demonstration of effective collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders to amplify outcomes (e.g., AUA and its Sections, community organizations, healthcare providers, policy makers, industry).

Number of Recipients: 1

Award Established 2023

Distinguished Contribution

Distinguished Contribution Awards may be presented annually to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the science and practice of urology, including, but not limited to, a specialty area, military service or for the development of new technologies (e.g., medical devices, software applications).

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Impact in advancing the specialty of urology in one or more of following areas:
 - a. Through work in a urologic specialty area
 - b. For the armed services
 - c. Creation of new technologies
2. Clinical expertise and patient care

Number of Recipients: up to 3

Award Established 1987

Distinguished Service

Distinguished Service Awards may be awarded annually to individuals for outstanding service in advancing the goals of the American Urological Association.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Impact on AUA's goals to accomplish its core mission in one or more of the following areas:
 - a. advancing education
 - b. advancing research
 - c. advancing advocacy
2. Volunteer service to national AUA

Number of Recipients: up to 3

Award Established 1983

Gold-Headed Cane

The Gold-Headed Cane Award may be presented to a senior urologist distinguished by outstanding contributions to the profession and to the AUA.

Expanded Definition: The inspiration for the AUA Gold-Headed Cane dates back to a highly respected tradition that began in the 17th century. The gold headed cane was first carried by Dr. Radcliffe from 1689 to 1714 and it accompanied him on many consultations in London, England. He was known by royalty for his medical skills and was considered an outstanding practitioner. Dr. Radcliffe was the first to pass the cane along to a successor whom he considered to be the greatest English physician of his time. AUA continues this tradition by presenting a Gold-Headed Cane Award to a senior urologist distinguished by outstanding contributions to the profession and to the AUA.

Exclusion Criteria: May not have been recognized in any other way by the AUA (no previous Awards won). Past AUA Presidents, Secretaries or Treasurers are not eligible.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Reliable and steadfast contributions to clinical expertise and patient care
2. Urologic education through training, mentorship and teaching (e.g., residents, fellows & medical students)

Number of Recipients: 1

Award Established 1991

History of the AUA Gold-Headed Cane Award

The AUA Gold-Headed Cane Award, approved by the Executive Committee in 1990, was first presented in 1991. The award may be presented annually to a senior urologist distinguished by outstanding contributions to the profession and to the AUA. Recipients receive a framed certificate and an engraved, 14K gold-headed cane lapel pin.

In an article written for the AUA News in 1999 by former AUA President, Dr. Earl F. Nation, the inspiration for the AUA Gold-Headed Cane award is presumed to have been the highly respected Gold-Headed Cane tradition which began in London in the 17th century.

The tradition of the gold-headed cane, which was carried by a series of distinguished physicians, originated with Dr. John Radcliffe. The gold-headed cane was first carried by Dr. Radcliffe from 1689 to 1714 and it accompanied him on many consultations. He was known by royalty for his medical skills and was considered an outstanding practitioner. Dr. Radcliffe was the first to pass the cane along to a successor whom he considered to be the greatest English physician of his time. For more than a century after Dr. Radcliffe's death, the cane passed successively to five eminent doctors, before the widow of Dr. Matthew Baillie presented it to the Royal College of Physicians in London in 1825, where it remains today on display.

In 1939 Dr. William J. Kerr, Professor of Medicine at the University of California, awarded the first Gold-Headed Cane at that institution to an outstanding senior medical student chosen by the faculty and his classmates. This practice has since spread to other medical institutions in this country.

The Gold-Headed Cane Award is a concept used today by many medical schools and specialty societies to recognize a physician who symbolizes the pursuit of the highest standards of scientific excellence and integrity and earns the respect and goodwill of colleagues and the profession at large.

Since the inception of the AUA's Gold-Headed Cane Award, many distinguished AUA senior urologists have received this honorable award. To be nominated for this award demonstrates the high personal regard, appreciation and respect in which the nominee is held by their peers.



Photo of Radcliff's Cane

Writing an AUA Awards Nomination

Since 1963 the AUA annually bestows a number of prestigious awards. A well thought out and well written nomination summary is crucial. Reviewing the following tips will help your nominees.

1. Selecting Nominees. Each Section has its own internal process for selecting AUA Awards Nominees. Some use a Nominating Committee and others use a subset of the Board. These groups should talk with other colleagues, leaders within the Section and other Board members to solicit worthy candidates from within your Section.
2. Nominations Timeline. The timeframe is June-August. The work of collecting nominations may take a few weeks to finalize the nominee list and draft the nominations.
3. Nominations.
 - A. Be Specific. Whenever a Nominating Committee member suggests an individual, it can't be simply a name put forward. The member should be required to say why the candidate would be deserving of one or more of the AUA's specific awards, and what outstanding and unique contributions the person has made for he or she to be recognized at the highest national/international level of the AUA.

Nomination Author. A poorly or improperly written award will disadvantage the nominee. For example, in the past some Sections have nominated a deserving urologist and then asked the nominee to write his own nomination statement – this is not acceptable to the AUA Awards Committee. **Self-nominations or nominations written in the first person are not accepted.**

A sponsor, such as a Section Nominating Committee Member, should be charged with drafting the Nomination Summaries. This may involve reaching out to colleagues of the nominee to gain additional insights into the nominee's accomplishments. The AUA strongly discourages self-nominations as it is often difficult for a member to brag about themselves.

- B. Write Up for the Nomination. The member submitting the nomination for consideration should be asked to write a summary, up to 500 words maximum, of why the person is an excellent candidate. Members of the Section Nominating Committee should then review and edit the text as appropriate.

MOST IMPACTFUL – personal reflections or accounts of how the person has changed lives, anecdotes, famous quotes, making a mark early, rapid ascension, how has a nominee impacted urology and made an indelible impression on people, number of grants.

LESS IMPACTFUL – summarizing a person's career track or rephrasing what is typically found in a biography (e.g., residency, fellowship, academic appointments, lectureships, publications).