

Research Integrity Award

Steven S. Coughlin, PhD

Established to honor those who protect public health above other interests.

Previous Recipients

2003 T.K. Joshi

2004 Fernanda Giannasi

2008 Richard Clapp

2009 Steve Wing

2012 Bruce Lanphear

An Award Inspired in 2000 by the Ethics & Philosophy Committee

Presented by Colin L. Soskolne, PhD



Colin Soskolne's Delivery of the 2014 ISEE Research Integrity Award to Steven Coughlin

Thank you, Francine. It gives me great pleasure today to deliver the 2014 ISEE Research Integrity Award to our colleague, Dr. Steven Coughlin.

The ISEE Research Integrity Award was born out of the Ethics and Philosophy Committee which came to life in 1991 when Raymond Neutra handed his founding Presidency to Patricia Buffler. As the founding chair of this Committee, I had the privilege of leading the creation of the Research Integrity Award as part of ISEE's already highly-developed slate of ethics and philosophy initiatives. The award was approved by the ISEE Executive Council in 2000. Each year, names of deserving individuals can be put forward for this Award, established to honor those who protect public health above other interests.

Dr. Coughlin's nomination was championed by Dr. Erin Haynes from the University of Cincinnati who unfortunately is unable to attend this conference and she asked that I, on behalf of the nomination committee, present the award in her stead. I am happy to do so. Several people must be recognized: First, Dr. Wael Al-Delaimy has been Chair of our Ethics and Philosophy Committee for the past 7 years. Second, the tireless work of Dr. Annette Peters in her capacity as Chair of the ISEE Awards Committee; and third, Dr. Joel Kauffman, our 2014 host and Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, who I salute for elevating the Research Integrity Award to this prime-time slot in the opening session.

In giving this year's Award to Steven Coughlin, we recognize his selfless professional stand in protecting the health of American veterans through exposing wrong-doing in the Veterans Administration. Steven has not only done much to stimulate ethics in epidemiology through his prolific contributions to the field, but he also served as Chair of the ISEE's Ethics and Philosophy Committee for the three-year period 1996-1999. Now Steven is being recognized for his demonstrated ability not only to talk the talk, but also to walk the talk through what has doubtlessly been a harrowing trial by fire in the Veterans Administration in the USA over the past few years. Steven serves as a powerful example to all of us who see our work as serving to protect the most vulnerable in society, wherever in the world we are. He stands as a role model that we all ought to aspire to emulate as we recognize the advocacy role of epidemiology, our discipline, in public health.

I take advantage of this prime-time opportunity to invite ISEE members to join our Ethics & Philosophy Committee at lunch time today and tomorrow in HUB Room #337 where you can bring your lunch and help us plan the coming year's ethics activities.

But now, please join me in inviting Steven Coughlin to the podium to receive his award and in congratulating him on his remarkable contributions to the health and welfare of US veterans. Please come forward, Steven (applause ...). We look forward to hearing in your acceptance speech a little of what made you so deserving of today's award.