



Dr. Everett Spees Receives the 2001 Harold E. Williamson Award

The COPIC Medical Foundation is pleased to announce Everett K. Spees, MD as the recipient of the Harold E. Williamson Award for 2001. The award recognizes volunteer medical services and/or contributions to the community by Colorado physicians. To recognize Dr. Spees and his accomplishments, COPIC Medical Foundation will donate \$10,000 to the 501(c)(3) organization of Dr. Spees' choice.

At its October 25th meeting, the Foundation's grants committee had the pleasant but difficult task of deciding among the many outstanding physicians nominated for this award. According to Dr. Jerry Buckley, Chairman and CEO of COPIC Companies, the nominees were all very impressive. "All nominees were clearly winners, and Hal Williamson would be proud of each of them and their volunteer achievements," said Buckley.

The award decision was based on criteria set forth in advance by the committee, and the nominees were given points based on these criteria. Dr. Jack Berry, chairman of the Foundation's grants committee, said, "While there was an extraordinary field of candidates for the first Harold Williamson Award, Dr. Spees stood out in the evaluation of the COPIC Foundation grants committee because of his commitment to the humanistic aspects of human service after a career committed to academic medicine. Dr. Spees exemplified the aim of the committee to recognize the accomplishments of one who has achieved much in service to humanity outside the spotlight of recognition."

A transplant surgeon, Dr. Spees served as director and co-founder of the transplant program at Presbyterian/St. Luke's and as medical director of the Colorado Organ Recovery Systems and Donor Alliance. Dr. Spees also worked as professor and head of the Division of Transplant Surgery at the University of Colorado Health Science Center.

Dr. Spees spent many years serving Colorado as a physician, but his energy and talents did not end there. In fact, in 1995 Dr. Spees traveled a different road—becoming ordained as a priest. His volunteer efforts in Colorado have been numerous, specifically:

- *Pro bono* work providing medical, psychiatric, and spiritual care for children and adolescents at Devereux Cleo Wallace in Boulder
- Volunteer medical care at Good Samaritan Pediatric Clinic, a homeless center for families
- *Pro bono* work as an ordained priest in St. Luke's Mission of the Polish National Catholic Church at Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center
- *Pro bono* work serving on the board of directors of Donor Alliance, an organ procurement agency
- Volunteer medical services for various medical missions

Throughout his career, Dr. Spees has served as a physician, teacher, counselor, and mentor for many. Dr. Buckley believes that Dr. Spees' contributions benefit much of Colorado. "Dr. Spees' volunteerism was apparent throughout his prestigious academic and transplantation surgical career, and his fire of commitment only became more intense with his retirement. His volunteerism bridged multiple areas of need," Buckley commented.

In addition to Dr. Spees' award, the grants committee also chose to honor four other physicians; the COPIC Medical Foundation will donate \$2,500 to the 501(c)(3) organization of each honoree's choice.

- Dr. Larry Kieft, OB/GYN, Fort Collins
- Dr. Merle Jacobsen, General Practitioner, Littleton
- Dr. Verne Smith, Family Practice/Geriatrics, Grand Junction
- Dr. Samuel Langstaff, Family Practice, Littleton

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Spees and all those nominated for this award. COPIC wishes to thank those who took the time to honor the outstanding physicians in their communities and the physicians whose tremendous contributions benefit us all.

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