



2018 COPIC Humanitarian Award: Dr. Debra J. Romberger

We are proud to announce that Dr. Debra J. Romberger, a pulmonary disease specialist with Nebraska Medicine, was chosen as the 2018 recipient of COPIC’s Humanitarian Award. Dr. Romberger was recognized for over 20 years of volunteer service at One World Community Health Centers, Inc.

One World partners with the community to provide high quality, culturally respectful, and affordable care to the medically underserved. Dr. Romberger works with patients at a tuberculosis (TB) prevention clinic, which provides care for almost half of all the TB cases in Nebraska.

As a University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) faculty member, Dr. Romberger involved medical students, residents and pulmonary fellows in caring for patients in One World’s multicultural setting. She has also worked with public health students to develop a “Tuberculosis Express” clinic that allows working patients more scheduling flexibility. Since 2015, Dr. Romberger has served as the Chairperson of the Department of Internal Medicine at UNMC.

“It’s good to get exposure to a diverse patient population. I see that some in my own practice, but you learn from patients and you learn from their situations. You feel like you’re helping them in some small way,” said Dr.

Romberger. Her efforts to improve processes at One Health have been highlighted in published articles about its innovative approach to patient-centered, culturally competent care, enabling other TB clinics to benefit from their experiences.

“Dr. Romberger has been a public health champion to protect and prevent TB outbreaks in our community. She is beloved by her patients and One World’s staff because of her commitment to serving others,” said Andrea Skolkin, CEO for One World. “She cares deeply for each and every individual she treats, so many of whom are facing significant challenges in their lives. Her warm heart makes their journey a lighter one.”

The Humanitarian Award recognizes a physician going above the call of duty in the Nebraska health care community. Dr. Romberger chose One World Community Health Centers as the beneficiary of the \$10,000 grant associated with the Award.

COPIC would like to recognize some of our past recipients:

- ★ Christina Fernandez, M.D.; Omaha
- ★ Donald Wirth, M.D.; Grand Island
- ★ Mark Emig, M.D.; Omaha

- ★ Jerry McLain, M.D.; Chadron
- ★ Jerry Fischer, M.D.; Omaha
- ★ Kristin McVea, M.D.; Omaha

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To nominate a physician, visit www.copicfoundation.org and select “Humanitarian Award,” or email Kathy Brown at kbrown@copic.com.