

Attendees of the AARC Awards Ceremony were privileged to witness California resident and CSRC member Richard "Rich" Kallet named the 2023 Jimmy A Young Medalist. The Jimmy A. Young Medal recognizes individuals who have made lasting and sustained contributions to the profession of respiratory care and the AARC. It is the highest honor bestowed by the AARC and is named in honor of AARC President Jimmy A. Young, who died in 1975 after serving the organization for many years.

Rich Kallet is a globally recognized researcher who has played a pivotal role in advancing Respiratory Care. He has 147 publications to his name and recently served as an associate editor for the Respiratory Care Journal. Rich is renowned as one of the leading experts in ARDS and mechanical ventilation, and he has consistently been a champion to the profession.

Rich Kallet's award acceptance speech:

I'd like to express my sincere thanks to the AARC President's Council and the AARC for honoring me with this prestigious award. I'm very grateful to be acknowledged by the profession which has played such a major role in my life these past 48 years. I also want to thank the American Respiratory Care Foundation's support for our profession's commitment to developing the science of respiratory care, and its continued support to our annual journal conferences in which this science is shared both within our profession, and with our colleagues in other professions.

In the few moments I have with you, I'd like to share some insights about our profession. We arose from humble beginnings as "oxygen orderlies", not as professionals. Back in 1947, a small group of forward-thinking oxygen orderlies, physicians and nurses envisioned us becoming a profession. And so, they founded what is now the AARC.

However, our humble beginnings (and the decades needed to evolve into a profession) had inevitable negative consequences for us. All experience creates a narrative. And in the subculture of medicine this narrative is called "institutional memory": a phenomenon that inevitably creates "implicit bias".

For us, the impact of implicit bias has been our struggle to overcome the stigma of still being perceived as "just oxygen orderlies". Case in point: it took the COVID-19 pandemic for our nursing and physician colleagues interviewed on national media to spontaneously, and consistently acknowledge our vital role as members of the health care team.

That huge, long overdue moment resulted from two factors. First, was the remarkable work you all did during the pandemic. None of you should ever lose sight of your heroic contributions during this epic public health catastrophe, despite the terror, anxiety and exhaustion you most surely experienced! Second, it reflects 75 years of persistent, dignified effort by the AARC to build our profession and its unceasing advocacy for our recognition.

Looking back, I firmly believe no other healthcare profession's humble origins and story of struggle rises to the level of poetry. Only our profession can claim that mantle. And I am

blessed to have been part of that story for most of my life.

Lastly, our struggle for legitimacy is not over. The eventual application of Artificial Intelligence to respiratory care will (once again), call into question our relevance (at least in the ICU). Inevitably, implicit bias will arise once more as a problem you will need to confront and combat. But I firmly believe (given our persistence and determination) that we can and will remain an essential profession. We already have the tools in place to influence how AI is implemented in our practice. These being our indispensable, sophisticated knowledge and skill set in the use of mechanical ventilation. One based upon the very science we helped to create over the decades. And second, is our strong relationship with medical products industry in helping to innovate the therapeutic tools we rely upon.

To sustain our profession in the decades to come, we must never lose our dedication to, and investment in, advancing the science of respiratory care. But it will also require every therapist to sustain and advance what your predecessors dedicated their careers to build. And to ensure that our profession remains vibrant for generations of therapists yet to come.
Thank-you again!

Rich, the CSRC thanks you for your incredible contribution to our profession and patient populations! We are humbled by your contributions and privileged you have such a large impact within California and the nation.

Theresa Cantu
CSRC Vice President