


Dr. James Jones Receives 2010 Harris Award

The recipient of this year's [T. Reginald Harris Memorial Award](#) has been described by his colleagues as "a giant in medicine in North Carolina." James G. Jones, MD, who spent his career advancing the quality of care in the state, received the distinguished Harris Award on October 23 from The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence (CCME), in honor of the life and memory of [T. Reginald Harris, MD](#), one of CCME's founding members. The award was given at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Medical Society (NCMS).

"Dr. Harris would be honored for [Dr. Jones] to receive the 2010 Harris Memorial Award," said Janelle Rhyne, MD, who nominated Dr. Jones for the award. "A longtime champion of access [to health care], Dr. Jones chaired the Demonstration Project of the State Medicaid Program to improve access for Medicaid recipients and to save money."

 James G. Jones, MD Throughout his career, Dr. Jones has dedicated himself to finding ways to make the health care system work better for patients. In 1994, he was appointed by Governor James Hunt to direct all health planning activity for North Carolina. He served as the executive director of the North Carolina Health Care Reform Commission and served on the board of directors of the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research, North Carolina Foundation for Advanced Health Program, and Cape Fear HealthNet. In 1990, Dr. Jones established the James G. Jones, MD, Student Scholarship Program at the [American Academy of Family Physicians \(AAFP\) Foundation](#) to demonstrate his continuing commitment to the education of medical students.

Dr. Jones, who earned his medical degree at Bowman Gray School of Medicine, currently serves as the medical director for Access III of the Lower Cape Fear. He started his family practice in Jacksonville and later moved to Greenville to direct the newly formed Family Practice Residency Program at East Carolina University (ECU) School of Medicine and Pitt County Memorial Hospital. He was the founding chair of the Department of Family Medicine at ECU School of Medicine, where he served for 20 years. Dr. Jones has served on numerous committees of NCMS, AAFP, and the American Medical Association, including the Technical Panel of the Harvard Study of the Resource-Based Relative Value Scale. He was past president of the [North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians](#) and the [AAFP](#).

Dr. John Smith, president of CCME's board of directors, said that the Harris Award selection committee received the highest number of nominations ever for the Award this year. "There was a stellar group of nominees, and it was difficult to make a decision—there were several who qualified to receive the Award," Dr. Smith said. "But Dr. Jones's accomplishments in medical education, patient advocacy, community service, and honors stood above the rest. He illustrates what we, as physicians, should strive to be."

This year marks the twelfth anniversary of the Harris Award, which includes a plaque and a monetary prize of \$2,500.