1998 Ernest Amory Codman Award Recipient.

Individual Award

Eugene C. Nelson, D.Sc., M.P.H.
Director of Quality Education, Measurement, and Research
Hitchcock Clinic, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
Lebanon, New Hampshire

Dr. Nelson was recognized for his contribution to the use of measurement in health care quality improvement. His development of cutting-edge techniques for displaying and using data in organizational and clinical improvement has been influential in assisting health care organizations to effectively use measurement in improving their performance.

He is a professor of community and family medicine and a member of the doctoral program committee for the Center for Evaluative Clinical Sciences at the Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, New Hampshire. He also is director of quality education, measurement, and research, Office of the President, at the Hitchcock Clinic. Dr. Nelson is a course director for the Institute for Healthcare Improvement in Boston and a member of the Institute of Medicine Committee on Building Quality in the 21st Century and the Medical Outcomes Study Steering Committee.

Dr. Nelson's research interests involve quality improvement and system performance measurement, health outcomes, customer satisfaction and patient-centered health care systems development. His is a frequent contributor to professional journals, as well as author and co-author of books and monographs. Dr. Nelson frequently gives national presentations on quality health care issues. He has served as director of quality care research at the Hospital Corporation of America in Nashville, and executive director of the Dartmouth Institute for Better Health. He received a doctorate in health services administration and health education from the Harvard School of Public Health, a master's degree in medical care planning and administration from Yale Medical School, and a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Dartmouth College.

In accepting this award, Dr. Nelson said:

"My esteemed colleague Paul Batalden and I are deeply honored to have our names linked with Ernest Codman and Avedis Donabedian (the 1997 individual Codman Award winner). At the dawn of the 20th century, Dr. Codman taught us that health care professionals must lead the measurement of what matters most -- the outcomes of care. By the close of the 20th century, Dr. Donabedian has shown us how to use the measurement of structure, process, and outcomes to improve quality. We hope to extend their seminal work into the 21st century, believing that the surest path to improving quality and value is mastering the measurement of process and outcomes by the people who provide and receive health care. In short, the value of measuring outcomes is improving the value of measured outcomes."