



Watson Award Announcement

July 8, 2014

To the UT Southwestern Community:

I am very pleased to announce that Dr. Marilyn G. Punaro, Professor of Pediatrics, has been selected to receive the 2014 Patricia and William L. Watson, Jr., M.D. Award for Excellence in Clinical Medicine.

The Watson Award was established in 2009 through a generous gift from Dr. and Mrs. William Watson to create an annual opportunity for the UT Southwestern community to recognize a faculty physician who exemplifies excellence in clinical care.

Dr. Punaro, a highly regarded pediatric rheumatologist, received her undergraduate degree from Pomona College in Claremont, California, and her medical degree from Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. She came to Dallas in 1977 to do her internship and residency at Children's Medical Center and then was a fellow at UT Southwestern for her specialty training in pediatric rheumatology.

Upon completion of her training in 1982, she became a member of the staff of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas. Subsequently, in 1996 she became a member of the UT Southwestern faculty in the Department of Pediatrics. She has served as Director of Arthritis Services at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital since 1998 and as Division Director for Pediatric Rheumatology in the UT Southwestern Department of Pediatrics since 2004.

She is regarded as an extraordinary clinician, with exceptional diagnostic skills, a highly compassionate bedside manner, and unwavering loyalty to her patients. She is also widely respected for the scientific rigor she brings to her consideration of complex and sometimes elusive signs and symptoms, as well as for her ability to transform these clues and data into testable diagnostic hypotheses. Her rigorous application of the scientific method to clinical medicine, combined with her exemplary approach to patients, makes her the epitome of a master clinician.

In addition, Dr. Punaro has been active nationally, as a member of professional societies and as an editor and reviewer of articles for the top professional journals in her field. Her own translational and clinical research has been well-supported and well-received.

This combination of attributes, activities, and contributions has led to her becoming a "go-to" national authority on pediatric rheumatology. As both a reflection and statement of her

stature, for the past 10 years she has been annually selected by her peers within the state as a “Texas Super Doctor,” and by colleagues across the country as a physician to be included in the database of “Best Doctors in America.”

The Watson Award will be presented to Dr. Punaro next fall, in conjunction with the Watson Lecture, which is given by a national healthcare leader. The date of the award event and the name of the selected Watson Lecturer will be announced later this summer.

For now, please join me in congratulating Dr. Punaro for being selected to receive the 2014 Watson Award.

I also want to thank Dr. Willis Maddrey for chairing the Watson Award Selection Committee and the faculty who served as committee members to consider the many deserving candidates identified by colleagues across the institution.

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.
President, UT Southwestern Medical Center