



Acknowledging Excellence in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

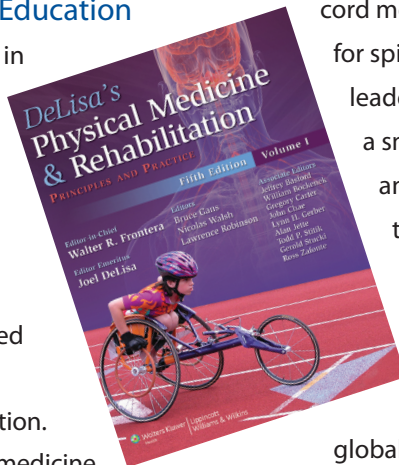
Joel DeLisa, MD, MS, educator, mentor, author, editor, administrator, investigator, board member...

Kessler Foundation/Joel A. DeLisa, MD, Award for Excellence in Research and Education

Each year for the next 20 years, professionals in physical medicine and rehabilitation will compete for this prestigious award that acknowledges the excellence in leadership, care and research of Joel DeLisa, MD, MS.

Building on the legacy of Dr. Henry Kessler, a pioneer in physical rehabilitation, DeLisa worked tirelessly to create a world-class institution for rehabilitation research and professional education. By doing so, he advanced the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation both nationally and internationally and highlighted the importance of clinical research.

His textbook, now in its fifth edition, is considered the definitive resource in the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation. Used by educators around the world, DeLisa's *Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Principles & Practice* has been translated into Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese. He is largely credited with establishing spinal cord medicine as a subspecialty of the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.



This formalized the education of clinicians in spinal cord medicine and raised the standard of care for spinal cord injury in the US. Under his leadership, the *Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine*, a small society journal, gained in national and international prominence to become the premier journal in the field. His hard work for many national and international professional organizations – as board member, committee member, chairman, and president – raised the global standards for rehabilitation and serves as an example to others with the desire to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

In recognition of DeLisa's unyielding standard of excellence and his influence, the Foundation announces the Kessler Foundation/Joel A. DeLisa, MD Award for Excellence in Research and Education in the field of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation. Each year, this award, which totals \$50,000, will recognize a leader and role model who has advanced the field. The first award will be announced in May 2011.