The Outstanding Article of the Year Award was established in 2003 to recognize and honor the single best article dedicated to health-related quality of life (HRQL) research that was published during the previous calendar year. In 2007, the award was modified to recognize the single best article dedicated to health-related quality of life (HRQL) research that was published in Quality of Life Research journal during the previous calendar year. This award recognizes the author(s) for significant intellectual contributions that promise to advance the state of the art in HRQL research methods or theory. This year, the Nominations Committee identified the recipient of the Article of the Year Award.

The Nominations Committee is comprised of the Immediate Past-President and the two previous Past-Presidents, in this case Donna Lamping (Chair), Madeleine King and Peter Fayers. In response to the annual call for nominations, this year’s Committee received 9 nominations from ISOQOL members and from Editor-in-Chief Ron Hays and his team of Associate Editors.

Nominations for 2008 ISOQOL Outstanding Article of the Year Award
Kudos to each of our colleagues below whose papers were nominated for this year’s award. Well done all, and many thanks for providing us all with such inspirational reading in 2008! To any new ISOQOL members, particularly those of you who are new to the field, and to students and others considering a research career in quality of life research, I can’t think of a better place to start than with this “required reading list” of the best papers in the field:

Diane L. Findough, Herbert Thijs, I-Chen Huang, Henriik W. Finnen, Albert W. Wu. Handling missing quality of life data in HIV clinical trials: what is practical?


I was delighted that Dr. Westerman was in New Orleans to accept the award, which was presented during the Awards Ceremony at the Conference Dinner. In a thought-provoking and intriguing study, Dr. Westerman and her colleagues raised questions about what quality of life measurement instruments actually assess. They investigated how patients interpret and respond to questions on the EORTC-QLQ-C30 over time, and sought to find explanations to account for counter-intuitive findings in QOL measurement.

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Donna L. Lamping, PhD

OAL, continued on page 6
The Nominations Committee was of the unanimous view that the paper by Dr. Westerman and colleagues was a winner. It used excellent science to study an important, clinically meaningful question of clear relevance to people with a terminal illness, written in a style equally accessible to a non-scientific audience, and which lifted the lid on what actually happens when patients respond to questionnaire about their quality of life. Their findings also address the limitations of the in patient-reported questionnaires in capturing the actual experience of terminally ill patients, as well as the resilience of such folks in the face of adversity. And isn't the title something even your Mom could understand! So forget the great debate in current jourr out whether declarative sentences as titles, held by many to be the choice of "hard" scientists, is the true test of real science; give your titles the "Could my Mom understand this" test.

Again, our warmest congratulations to Dr. Westerman and her colleagues for a superb paper!

Previous Recipients of the Outstanding Article of the Year Award

Dr. Westerman and her colleagues join an illustrious group of researchers who have been past recipients of the Article of the Year Award. Previous recipients include:


Thinking Ahead...

Just a reminder that as you are perusing the monthly issues of this year's Qualitiy of Life Research journal, keep in mind possible nominations for the 2009 Article of the Year Award. The call for nominations will be issued in early summer 2010 so there is plenty of time to consider your favourites for the 2009 award.

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