

My wife said to ask a riddle... "How do you make Eddy Fraifeld speechless!" I'll tell you how.

Present him with the an award named after Hugh & Renee Rosomoff... Two people I have known for many years and always admired and respected for their long and tireless work in the specialty of Pain Medicine. To be honored for "excellence" and named with them... simply left me speechless when I was 1st notified. I am very honored to be the recipient this award beyond what words can say

One only needs to look at the list of my predecessors in this award to be humbled. Among them are several I considered among my greatest mentors and friends, two whom I can't receive this award without a special mention of thanks; Winston Parris who was chair of the pain clinic when I was a resident at Vanderbilt and when I 1st came there was absolutely sure "this was the last thing I ever want to do". He proved me wrong, and Sam Hassembush of blessed memory who was a great mentor to me at AAPM. I am honored beyond words to be included among them.

The award is given to those individuals who "Demonstrates outstanding contributions to pain research, education and clinical practice", I'm not sure if I would have ever placed myself in this area. To me, it has always been "about the patient". We in Pain Management share a special bond among each other and our patients. For many...we are the caboose, the end of the line. Their last hope.

My hope and prayer has always been that "I can do the right thing" for them. As all of you I'm sure felt at some point, we are never sure. That is why we come to this meeting and others like it. Our specialty is an evolving field with many challenges:

Clinical...economic...social...legal...

Imagine how much worse it is to our patients. My hope is to always think of the patient 1st and do the right thing for them. That is all I ever have tried to do.

Thank you very much for this honor

Regretfully... for the 1st time in many years I will not be able to join you at Southern Pain Society meeting.