

Congratulations to the 2016 Achievement Award Recipients



Lawrence H. Phillips II, MD

Lifetime Achievement Award:

Lawrence H. Phillips, II, MD

Lawrence H. Phillips, II, MD, will receive the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award for the depth and breadth of his contributions to the fields of EDX and NM medicine.

A past AANEM Board President, and Editor of *Muscle & Nerve* since 2008, Dr. Phillips has published extensively in the field of NM medicine, particularly on myasthenia gravis and Lambert-Eaton myasthenia. He served on numerous local, national, and international committees, and was a member of the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology.

The humble spark to this illustrious career: crickets. “For my senior thesis research at Princeton I did neurophysiologic recordings on crickets to study the role hearing played in regulating aggression,” said Dr. Phillips.

The interest in stimulating and recording from nerves deepened in medical school at West Virginia University. “My mentor, Dr. Ludwig Gutmann, let me work in his EMG lab. It

inspired me to go into neurology, and to be an electromyographer.” Dr. Phillips trained in neurology at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, and completed a research fellowship in neurophysiology under the direction of Dr. Edward H. Lambert. He joined the Department of Neurology at the University of Virginia Medical School as Director of the EMG Laboratory, and was later named Director of the NM Center and MDA Clinic at the University of Virginia Medical Center. He was named Professor of Neurology in 1995, Vice-Chair of the Department of Neurology in 1996, and T.R. Johns, MD Professor of Neurology in 1997.

The most significant changes he’s seen in the field - “When I started we didn’t have much in the way of effective treatment for myasthenia gravis. Now we control disease with immune therapy, to the point where for most people it’s a benign disease. Also when I started, there was no treatment for ALS, but we’re optimistic about finding a way to control or eradicate the disease.”

One constant has been his regard for AANEM. “This is the organization I have invested the most significant amount of my time in over the years, and being honored by this organization I’ve devoted so much to, means everything to me,” said Dr. Phillips.

-Dr. Phillips



John D. England, MD

Distinguished Physician Award:

John D. England, MD

John D. England, MD, is the recipient of the 2016 Distinguished Physician Award, for his superior achievements as a clinician, educator, and association volunteer.

“What I wanted to do my whole life was be a doctor. To be called a ‘distinguished physician’ is the highest honor I can think of,” said Dr. England. “It means I take good care of patients, and I have the interests of healthcare in mind. I hope that I have advanced the field in some small way, and helped provide guidance to other professionals.”

A past president of the AANEM Board and current Chair of Neurology/Neurosciences at Louisiana State University, Dr. England is an internationally known expert in peripheral neuropathy. Many of his collaborative efforts serve to form the basis of diagnosis and care of patients with peripheral neuropathy. He has served as principle or co-investigator on 18 clinical or research studies, and his body of work has produced more than 260 publications and books. He has been named on numerous lists for his accomplishments, including *Best Doctors in America* and several categories of *Who’s Who*.

Like Dr. Phillips, he credits Dr. Ludwig Guttman for leading him to neurology. “He inspired so many of us for how interesting the field is,” said Dr. England. “I got even more interested in neuromuscular disease and clinical neurophysiology when I did a fellowship with Austin Sumner and Arthur Asbury at the University of Pennsylvania. Like Lud, he (Austin) had been one of the leaders in the field of EMG. I

found out pretty quickly that not only were neuromuscular diseases very interesting and complicated, but I saw how many people didn’t have the depth of knowledge to assess the complexities of diagnosis and treatment.”

His passion for both research and academics was sparked. “As I see it, the practice of education is twofold – providing the best care for patients that we can, and doing research in the field so we can further the research to improve diagnosis, treatment, and care. As we get older, we recognize one of the most important things we can do is to pass on our education and experience to the next generation. I was told, 50 years from now, people may not recall all the papers I’ve published, but what will carry on are the people I’ve trained.”

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