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The North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN) and its foundation honored two of Cincinnati Children's own at their annual meeting on October 11 in Chicago.

The foundation's Legacy Program has created the **William F. Balistreri Prize** for Excellence in Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, which will be presented annually to the first author of the highest ranked research paper submitted during the NASPGHAN meeting. The prize consists of a plaque and a cash award.

Balistreri headed the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition here for 25 years. He stepped down in 2005, but continued as the director of the Pediatric Liver Care Center and medical director of Pediatric Liver Transplantation until 2009. He is currently director of the Pediatric Transplantation Hepatology Program and the Dorothy M.M. Kersten Professor of Pediatrics. He is also editor of the *Journal of Pediatrics*.

Since the early 1980s, Balistreri has been involved with NASPGHAN, serving as its first two-term president. The organization has grown from 149 members to over 2,000 in the US, Canada and Latin America.

Three aspects of Balistreri's work have meant the most to him in his career:

1. Having the ability to improve the outcome for children by deciphering diseases, what's causing them and how to treat them
2. Training young people to go on to successful careers of their own – "That's the enduring part," he says.
3. The field itself and how much it's grown.

"I received a note from a patient who'd had a liver transplant here 20 years ago," he says. "She's now working as an RN at a hospital in Cleveland. She wrote to me recently that she could not have had a better liver transplant team and that she's grateful for the care she received. That's worth everything to me."

Balistreri looks forward to continue caring for patients with complex liver disease and educating the next generation of doctors and scientists. He hopes that the award created in his name will inspire young investigators to foster their research, which will improve the outcome for children.

“Ultimately,” he says, “that’s what we’re all here for.”

Mitchell Cohen, MD, vice chair of Pediatrics for Clinical Affairs, and director of the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, received the Shwachman Award. This honor is given by NASPGHAN to a person who has made major life-long scientific or educational contributions to the field of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology or nutrition in North America.

Cohen has had a long-standing interest in the pathophysiology of diarrheal diseases and continues to direct basic science and clinical research programs related to intestinal secretion and infection. These programs include studies of the guanylin family of intestinal peptides, epidemiology and pathogenesis of diarrheagenic *E. coli* and studies of human cholera and typhoid fever vaccines.

A former president of NASPGHAN himself, Cohen has also chaired the section on Growth Development and Aging of the American Gastroenterological Association. He has served as a member of the Clinical Research Committee of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFFTI), and as a member on a number of NIH study sections and the National Commission on Digestive Diseases.

Cohen prizes his relationships with patients and colleagues from whom he’s learned so much about medicine and the human experience. He is always excited to discover new knowledge in the lab and in the clinic, and he appreciates the opportunity, using standardized, evidence-based care, to improve all patients’ health by improving each patient’s health.

Upon hearing the news of the Shwachman Award, Cohen was quick to acknowledge his team. “It reinforced how lucky and fortunate I am to work with such outstanding colleagues in Cincinnati,” he said. “This is truly a recognition of their success. Without them, I would have accomplished little, and because of them and the supportive environment here, we have all been able to advance the field. This recognition is certainly a celebration of the team effort of all of the doctors, nurses and researchers with whom I have worked. The credit is theirs.”