



## The American Academy of Nursing Recognizes Four Individuals for Their Outstanding Contributions to Improving Health and Health Care

*Prestigious Honors Awarded During the Academy's Annual Policy Conference in Washington, DC*

**Washington, DC (November 15, 2019)** – The American Academy of Nursing (Academy) honored Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Susan B. Hassmiller PhD, RN, FAAN, Mary Dee Hacker, MBA, NEA-BC, RN, FAAN, and Tim Porter O'Grady, DM, EdD, ScD(h), APRN, FAAN, FACCWS, during the 2019 *Transforming Health, Driving Policy* conference, for their outstanding contributions to nursing.



The Academy awarded its inaugural **Legacy Award** to **Congresswoman Johnson**, a transformative nurse legislator who has made an extraordinary impact through her commitment to sound policy. Her prolific contributions include authoring and co-authoring more than 177 bills which have been passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by the president. She is also the first African American and woman to chair the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and she is currently the Dean of the Texas Congressional delegation.

“With over 40 years of public service and as the first nurse elected to Congress, Congresswoman Johnson is a true pioneer of the nursing profession,” said Academy President Eileen Sullivan-Marx, PhD, RN, FAAN. “There is no one else more deserving of the inaugural Legacy Award than the Congresswoman, who is widely recognized as one of the most effective legislators.”

The **Civitas Award**, which honors an individual who exemplifies dedication to excellence in their service to nursing, health care, and to promoting health policy, was awarded to **Dr. Susan B. Hassmiller**. Dr. Hassmiller currently serves as a key member of the leadership team for the *Future of Nursing 2030* report in her role as the Senior Scholar-in-Residence and Senior Advisor to the President on Nursing at the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). In addition, she directs the *Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action* in her role as Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJF's) Senior Advisor for Nursing. These unique and influential positions at RWJF and NAM, allow Dr. Hassmiller to act as a commanding voice for the profession.

“Dr. Hassmiller is a force, who through her tenacious commitment continually demonstrates the impact nurses have on the health of our nation,” said Dr. Sullivan-Marx. “She is a true visionary who foresees the future and moves in that direction so that nursing can maximize its policy impact and promote a culture of health”.





**Ms. Mary Dee Hacker** was honored with the **Health Care Leader Award**, in recognition of her service to improving the health of the nation through extraordinary contributions to organizational excellence. An experienced administrator and nurse leader, for over four decades Ms. Hacker has focused on improving the well-being of children, young adults, and their families within the healthcare environment. Ms. Hacker is the Chief Nursing Officer Emerita at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and serves as the Executive Advisor to the hospital's Institute for Nursing and Interprofessional Research. She also spearheaded the development of a 22-week RN residency training program designed to reduce turnover rates and help better

transition new nurse graduates into the clinical setting. This model, now called Versant, is widely used by hospitals nationally. "Ms. Hacker is an ideal recipient for the Health Care Leader Award. Throughout her career she has excelled at improving care delivery and approaches her endeavors with reality-based professionalism and dedication. While serving as interim CEO of the Academy last year she applied her expertise to the position and successfully navigated the organization through a critical transition period as a permanent CEO was identified," said Dr. Sullivan-Marx.

Finally, the **President's Award**, which honors an influential national leader who embodies the mission of the Academy, was given to **Dr. Tim Porter-O'Grady**. Dr. Porter-O'Grady is recognized nationally and internationally as an expert and futurist in clinical health, leadership, professional governance, and health systems innovation. He has consulted with over 600 clinical systems worldwide, lectured at over 1,000 settings globally, and has authored and co-authored 26 books and over 200 journal publications. Additionally, Dr. Porter-O'Grady currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the American Nurses Foundation.



"Dr. Porter-O'Grady's name is synonymous with innovation and his generative, far-reaching body of work has influenced countless nurses to envision a future of healthcare excellence." said Dr. Sullivan-Marx. "The Academy's signature initiatives are focused on leadership, science, and innovation and his pursuits seamlessly align with the organization's mission and vision to transform health policy and practice through nursing knowledge and leadership."

The American Academy of Nursing's [Transforming Health, Driving Policy Conference](#) showcases the extraordinary work nurses who are driving policy changes that promote the health needs of our nation.

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**The American Academy of Nursing ([www.AANnet.org](http://www.AANnet.org))** serves the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy and science through organizational excellence and effective nursing leadership. The Academy's more than 2,800 fellows are nursing's most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice, and research. They have been recognized for their extraordinary contributions to nursing and healthcare.

**CONTACT:** Ellie Cook | 202-777-1175 | [ecook@aanet.org](mailto:ecook@aanet.org)