

Staff Recognition Awardees

AAI also presented two Public Service Staff Recognition Awards. These Awards are intended to recognize the important contributions of those who work “behind the scenes” but who play crucial roles in advancing biomedical research.

The 2009 AAI Staff Recognition Awardees are **Erik Fatemi** and **Dr. Sudip Parikh**, for “outstanding work advocating for biomedical research and preparing appropriations for the National Institutes of Health.”

Erik Fatemi

Erik Fatemi, Professional Staffer for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies for Chairman Tom Harkin, helped to “[ensure] the doubling of the NIH budget and the recent \$10.4 billion in stimulus funding. He is Chairman Harkin’s eyes and ears on all issues affecting NIH, and is the Senate staff guardian over the NIH and those...who depend on its funding.” The award was given in grateful appreciation of “his skill, his commitment to advancing biomedical research, his dedication to the NIH mission, and his appreciation of our community’s life’s work.”

—AAI President Art Weiss, in presentation remarks



(L-R) AAI President Art Weiss presents the 2009 AAI Staff Recognition Award to Erik Fatemi, Professional Staffer for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.

Sudip Parikh

Dr. Sudip Parikh, then-Professional Staffer for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies and Science Adviser to Senator Arlen Specter, “had a unique understanding of the research world and its inhabitants. His effectiveness in turning Senator Specter’s deep commitment to biomedical research into workable and funded programs cannot be overstated. He...led Senator Specter’s efforts on bioterrorism, pandemic preparedness, and stem cell research.”

—AAI President Art Weiss, in presentation remarks



(L-R) AAI Staff Recognition Awardees Erik Fatemi, Professional Staffer for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies; and Sudip Parikh, former Professional Staffer and Science Advisor for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.



(L-R) AAI President Art Weiss; AAI Staff Recognition Awardee Sudip Parikh, former Professional Staffer and Science Advisor for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies; and AAI Committee on Public Affairs Chair Bill Green.



(L-R) Michele Hogan, AAI Executive Director; Art Weiss, AAI President; Sudip Parikh, AAI Staff Recognition Awardee; Wendell Primus, Senior Policy Advisor on Budget and Health for Speaker and AAI Public Service Awardee Nancy Pelosi; Erik Fatemi, AAI Staff Recognition Awardee; Ron Pollack, Executive Director for Families USA, AAI Public Service Awardee; Bill Green, AAI Committee on Public Affairs Chair; and Lauren Gross, AAI Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs.



AAI member B.J. Fowlkes enjoys the reception.



(L-R) AAI Committee on Public Affairs Chair Bill Green talks with AAI member and former CPA Chair Hugh Auchincloss, Jr., Principal Deputy Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and AAI member Daniel Rotrosen, Director of the NIAID Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Transplantation.



AAI past president Henry Metzger talks with AAI Science Associate Kira Gantt.



AAI Staff Recognition Awardee Sudip Parikh chats with FASEB Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Director of the FASEB Office of Public Affairs Howard Garrison.



AAI Executive Director M. Michele Hogan (R) welcomes FASEB President-elect Mark O. Lively, (L) and FASEB Executive Director Guy Fogleman.



AAI Staff Recognition Awardees Erik Fatemi (L) and Sudip Parikh (R) greet guest Meg Thompson.