



Society of University Surgeons Lifetime Achievement and Trailblazer Awards

Award Criteria:

Lifetime Achievement Award (LTAA)- <https://www.susweb.org/lifetime-achievement-award/>

The Society of University Surgeons (SUS) initiated a Lifetime Achievement Award (LTAA) in 2004. This award is designed to recognize individuals who:

1. Have had a sustained career in academic surgery with significant and impactful contributions to surgical science and/or the development and training of surgical leaders and surgeon scientists.
2. Past commitment to the Society of University Surgeons is desired but not required. This includes prior engagement as a past leader in the Society and/or participation in the Society through annual attendance and active participation at the Academic Surgical Congress or other Society events.

Trailblazer Award

The SUS created a new Trailblazer Award in 2020. This award is designed to recognize individuals who:

1. Have developed a new area of academic pursuit or opened up new avenues of investigation or academic thought that have the potential to be groundbreaking for years to come.
2. The “trailblazing” contributions of the nominee can be broadly interpreted and are not limited to traditional surgical science. Nominations should specify how this individual has created a new and sustained domain of scholarship, knowledge, or leadership.

The SUS seeks to honor and recognize these individuals because of their embodiment of the principles of the Society and to establish role models for future generations of surgeons to honor and emulate their contributions to the science of surgery.

Nominating and Voting Process:

The membership of the SUS will be asked for recommendations for both awards after the completion of the previous year’s Academic Surgical Congress.

- For the LTAA, the nominations must include a brief one-page description of why you believe your nominee(s) deserves this distinction including the nominee’s accomplishments in academic surgery (research, administration, and/or clinical practice), their contributions to the development and training of surgical leaders, and their commitment to the Society as evidenced by attendance and participation in meetings.
- For the Trailblazer Award, the nominations must include a brief one-page description of why you believe your nominee(s) deserves this distinction including the nominee’s accomplishments in developing new areas of academic pursuit and investigation that have the potential to be groundbreaking.

These nominations will be submitted to the SUS Executive Office. Please note that you must be an SUS member in good standing to nominate an individual.

Following closure of the nominations, the SUS Executive Office and Secretary will collate all the nominations and forward them to the past ten Presidents, current President of the SUS, and President of the SUS Foundation (12 individuals). This group will review all nominations, and they will select the award winners. Following selection of the award winners, the awardees will be notified by the Secretary of the SUS. This group will also select the person who will provide the awardees introduction.

Award Process:

These awards will be presented to the awardee at the Academic Surgical Congress in February. There will be a specified time where the President will introduce an individual selected to introduce the winners. Following this, the award winners will have an opportunity to speak. The presentation will occur during the Lifetime Achievement Award and Trailblazer Winner session, which takes place immediately prior to the SUS Presidential Address.