



# INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION

Leading the advancement of professional interpreters

## **International Interpreter Awards Announced: Award Ceremony to Take Place at the IMIA International Medical Interpreters Conference**

The IMIA is pleased to announce the six recipients of the IMIA Awards this year, and a seventh recipient of special Appreciation, after tallying the votes of IMIA members. One of the most important and widely recognized functions IMIA fulfills for its members is the awarding of IMIA prizes and awards at our Annual International Conference on Medical Interpreting. Being selected by a national and international jury to receive an IMIA prize or award signifies recognition as the 'best of the best' by one's peers around the globe. The Award recipients this year are:

### **The Raquel Cashman Award:**

Inna Persits-Gimelberg, MS, Interpreter Advocate and Trainer, Past National Board Director, Present NBCMI Advisor

### **The IMIA Educator of the Year Award:**

Estela McDonough, Interpreter Educator, Boston University and UMass Medical Center

### **The National Medical Interpreter of the Year Award:**

Eva Molina-De Vilbiss, MA, CMI-Spanish, Past IMIA California Chapter Representative, freelance translator and interpreter

### **The International Medical Interpreter of the Year Award:**

Mohammad Afzal Siddiqui, India, Senior language Expert, Marlin Safe Med Journey

### **The Provider of the Year Award:**

Alexander R. Green, MD, MPH, Associate Director, Disparities Solutions Center, Massachusetts General Hospital

### **The Lighthouse Leadership Award:**

Paul Penzo, Past IMIA Interpreter Service Provider Division Chairperson, All Languages Ltd, Toronto Canada

This year the IMIA received an unprecedented amount of nominations, making it difficult for the IMIA Executive Board to select the Awardees. "I would like to congratulate the Award Recipients for their undivided commitment to the medical interpreter profession. Their efforts and passion will have a lasting impact on our field; they are great role models for our future leaders," said Lola Bendana, IMIA President. Maria Schieweter, NIMIA President and IMIA Executive Board member added, "It was a difficult decision to make on who would win the awards but we are very confident that this year's recipients reflect the commitment to our cause of providing excellent service to our clients."

Please take this opportunity to congratulate these fellow IMIA members! The IMIA encourages not only members but all in the field to continue to nominate other outstanding colleagues for the IMIA prizes, as recognition of their work and accomplishments in advocating for the profession and for the patients who require interpreters all over the world. Individuals are entitled to nominate one candidate per prize. All IMIA members and others are encouraged to submit nominations. For more information about the IMIA Awards, please go to: ([www.imiaweb.org](http://www.imiaweb.org))

### **About the International Medical Interpreters Association:**

The International Medical Interpreters Association is a US-based international organization committed to the advancement of professional medical interpreters as the best practice to equitable language access to health care for linguistically diverse patients. Founded in 1986, with over 2,000 members, most providing interpreting services in over 70 languages, the IMIA is the oldest and largest medical interpreter association in the country. While representing medical interpreters as the experts in medical interpreting, membership to the IMIA is open to those interested in medical interpreting and language access. We currently have a division of providers, corporate members, and trainers. Policy makers, health care administrators, and others interested in medical interpreting are also welcome to join us as associate members. The IMIA is recognized as the standard-setting organization for the profession of medical interpreters.