

## 2018 SAMMIES FINALISTS

### CAREER ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL FINALISTS

This medal recognizes a federal employee for leading significant and sustained accomplishments throughout a federal career of 20 or more years.

**Gerald Ankley, Ph.D.**

Research Toxicologist  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Duluth, Minnesota

For three decades, established techniques and standards to identify dangerous chemicals and prevent them from contaminating America's lakes and waterways

**Judith Lynn Allaire DesHarnais**

Deputy District Engineer and Chief of Programs and Project Management  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Directed major flood-protection projects that have saved lives and prevented more than a billion dollars in property damage

**Allen R. Hefner Jr., Ph.D.**

Power Electronics Project Leader  
National Institute of Standards and Technology, Physical Measurement Laboratory  
Gaithersburg, Maryland

Developed the "Hefner model" for power semiconductor devices that revolutionized manufacturing of power conversion systems that millions of people use today, leading to trillions of dollars in energy savings worldwide

**John J. Sammarco, Ph.D.**

Principal Research Engineer, Pittsburgh Mining Research Division  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Led game-changing research over three decades that improved lighting in mines, advanced rescue techniques and reduced accidents and injuries

**Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp, M.D.**

Associate Director for Children with Special Health Care Needs  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Atlanta, Georgia

Pioneered research to understand the prevalence of autism and other developmental disabilities, influencing the expansion of health, social and educational services for children with special needs

## **HOMELAND SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT MEDAL FINALISTS**

This medal recognizes a federal employee or team for a significant accomplishment in fields such as border and transportation security, civil rights, counterterrorism, emergency response, fraud prevention and intelligence.

### **Mark L. Bathrick and Team**

Director, Office of Aviation Services

Department of the Interior

Boise, Idaho

Built the largest civilian aerial drone fleet to help federal agencies fight forest fires, inspect infrastructure, monitor wildlife and natural resources, halt pollution, and conduct search and rescue operations

### **Stephen C. Curren and the Cyber Incident Response Team**

Director, Division of Resilience

Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response

Washington, D.C.

Defended health care computer systems in the U.S. from a global cyberattack that threatened patients' health and safety

### **Karen D. Dodge, Margaret Moeser and Teams**

Staff Attorney (Dodge); Senior Trial Attorney (Moeser)

Federal Trade Commission (Dodge); Department of Justice (Moeser)

Chicago, Illinois (Dodge); Washington, D.C. (Moeser)

Brought justice and restored financial losses of nearly \$600 million for hundreds of thousands of people who were defrauded by money transfer scams

### **Blake Douglas Rowe**

Director, Forensic Exploitation Directorate

U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, Defense Forensic Science Center

Forest Park, Georgia

Established sophisticated forensic exploitation laboratories to investigate terrorist activities, contributing to thousands of convictions and thwarting attempts to attack Americans overseas and in the U.S.

### **Jeffrey Elliott Wood Jr. and the North Shore Gang Task Force**

Supervisory Special Agent

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Chelsea, Massachusetts

Led a record takedown of the notorious MS-13 gang, arresting more than 60 leaders and members of this criminal organization in the Boston region

## **MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE MEDAL FINALISTS**

This medal recognizes a federal employee or team for a significant accomplishment that exemplifies efficient, effective and results-oriented government.

### **Guy Demeter**

Data Scientist

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C.

Developed wide-ranging data management systems that enable FBI analysts to investigate criminal activity and identify threats more quickly

### **Ariel Gold**

Data Program Manager

Department of Transportation, Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office

Washington, D.C.

Improved data-sharing to accelerate the adoption of new technologies that increase transportation safety and efficiency, including self-driving cars and vehicles that communicate with one another

### **Marcella Jacobs and the VA Digital Services Team**

Executive Director, Digital Service

Department of Veterans Affairs

Washington, D.C.

Created online digital tools for veterans to more easily access benefits and services, delivering a high-quality and seamless user experience

### **Andy Neal and the NFIP Reinsurance Program Team**

Branch Chief, Actuarial and Catastrophic Modeling

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C.

Persuaded private reinsurers for the first time to assume some flood damage liability, saving the National Flood Insurance Program \$1 billion in claims in 2017

## **NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MEDAL FINALISTS**

This medal recognizes a federal employee or team for a significant accomplishment in fields such as defense, military affairs, diplomacy, foreign assistance and trade.

### **Andrew M. Herscowitz and the Power Africa Team**

Coordinator for Power Africa

U.S. Agency for International Development

*Pretoria*, South Africa

Provided electricity to some 50 million people in sub-Saharan Africa, while creating hundreds of millions of dollars in export opportunities for U.S. companies

### **David Huizenga**

Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation

National Nuclear Security Administration

Washington, D.C.

Managed numerous high-profile projects with foreign governments to secure large quantities of weapons-useable nuclear materials and prevent them from falling into the wrong hands

### **Matthew Nims and Team**

Acting Director, Office of Food for Peace

U.S. Agency for International Development

Washington, D.C.

Distributed \$1.4 billion in emergency food assistance to 20 million people in four nations fighting famine and threatened by violent conflicts, saving countless lives under harrowing conditions

### **Hoa Thi Tran, Ph.D., and Team**

Asia Team Lead, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration

Department of State

Washington, D.C.

Delivered emergency humanitarian relief to nearly 700,000 Rohingya refugees who fled violent persecution in Burma to find safe haven in neighboring Bangladesh

## **PROMISING INNOVATIONS MEDAL FINALISTS**

This medal recognizes a federal employee or team for leading a promising discovery, breakthrough technology or innovative approach to address a significant challenge facing our country or create new opportunities for the American people.

### **Barney S. Graham, M.D., Ph.D. and Theodore C. Pierson, Ph.D.**

Deputy Director, Vaccine Research Center (Graham); Chief of the Laboratory of Viral Diseases (Pierson)  
National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
Bethesda, Maryland

Developed a promising vaccine now in clinical testing to prevent the Zika virus, which has caused serious birth defects in the children of women infected during pregnancy

### **Parimal Kopardekar, Ph.D., and Team**

Senior Technologist for Air Transportation Systems  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Ames Research Center  
Moffett Field, California

Designed a first-of-its-kind traffic management system for unmanned aerial vehicles, paving the way for large-scale use of commercial drones

### **Jordan T. Manos**

Director of Operations  
Veterans Affairs Acquisition Academy (on detail to FEMA in 2017)  
Frederick, Maryland

Improved the system used to assess flood damage from hurricanes and other major storms, helping residents receive aid more quickly and saving the government millions of dollars in appraisal costs

### **Alison Smith, Ph.D.**

Chief Engineer, Materials Analysis of Electronic Component Technologies  
Naval Surface Warfare Center  
Crane, Indiana

Pioneered the use of nanoparticles to mark sensitive military equipment with a unique fingerprint to guard against counterfeit products and protect our nation's warfighters

## **SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT MEDAL FINALISTS**

This medal recognizes a federal employee or team for a significant accomplishment in fields such as biomedicine, economics, energy, information technology, meteorology, resource conservation and space.

### **Margaret Honein, Ph.D.**

Director, Division of Congenital and Developmental Disorders  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Atlanta, Georgia

Collected and analyzed critical data to help protect women and babies from the mosquito-borne Zika virus that was spreading rapidly in the U.S. and its territories

### **Daniel L. Kastner, M.D., Ph.D.**

Scientific Director, Division of Intramural Research  
National Institutes of Health, National Human Genome Research Institute  
Bethesda, Maryland

Identified an entire new class of rare genetic diseases and treatments to alleviate suffering for thousands of patients in the U.S. and around the world

### **Barbara G. Kutchko, Ph.D.**

Senior Research Scientist  
Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Helped rewrite standards for the use of foamed cement in oil wells to prevent blowouts and damaging spills, protecting workers and the environment

### **Soheila J. Maleki, Ph.D.**

Lead Scientist in Food Allergy Research  
Agricultural Research Service  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Led life-changing research on the causes, detection, prevention and potential remedies for peanut and tree nut allergies, which affect up to two million American children

### **Tim Schmit**

Satellite Research Meteorologist  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Madison, Wisconsin

Developed cutting-edge satellite technology for detecting and monitoring severe weather, helping protect people and property from approaching disasters