Gerard B. Odell Research Award

The Gerard B. Odell Research Award was established to honor Dr. Odell's distinguished career in pediatric research, academia, clinic practice and education. Each year, the award is given to an assistant or associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics in recognition of their outstanding research accomplishments and demonstrated potential for future contributions. Award recipients receive $5,000 to spend on research or professional development expenses and a one-time award of $5,000 via the annual compensation plan exercise.

The Research and Development (R&D) Committee
The R&D committee will meet each winter to review Odell Award nominations and will recommend an awardee to the department chair. The award will be presented at the annual Odell Lectureship each spring.

Eligibility Statement
Assistant professors and associate professors whose principal appointments are with the Department of Pediatrics and are involved in ***basic or translational research*** are eligible for nomination. Faculty involved in clinical, health services research, or quality improvement should be nominated for the Ellen R. Wald Award. Candidates may not be nominated for both the Odell and the Wald award.

Nomination Guidelines

- Nominations are submitted through Smartsheet. Please upload a signed one-page nomination letter summarizing the candidate's research accomplishments, their current CV, and submit the form by the deadline.
- One individual will receive this award annually. A one-time allocation of $5,000 will be allocated to the awardee to support their research and/or professional development endeavors. Spending must adhere to UW-SMPH guidelines.

Award Priorities
Award decisions are based primarily on outstanding research accomplishments and demonstrated potential for future contributions in ***basic or translational research***. This award is intended to recognize and support junior faculty, including Assistant Professors and early-stage Associate Professors (i.e., those not yet eligible for promotion).

Recipient Responsibilities
Following the Odell Lecture during Research Week each spring, it is expected that the Gerard B. Odell Awardee will give a presentation on their current research and future plans.

About Dr. Odell
Gerard B. Odell, MD, was a major figure in shaping the subspecialty disciplines of neonatology and gastroenterology in Pediatrics and was highly influential in improving the quality of care of newborns and children with liver disease in the second half of the 20th century. He was born in 1925 in London, England, the seventh of nine children. He received his undergraduate education at New York University, his M.D. degree at Yale, and his training in Pediatrics at Yale and Johns Hopkins. As an assistant professor, he left Hopkins to serve as Chairman and Professor of the Department of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Virginia. Odell came to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to serve as the Director of the Division of Gastroenterology and Nutrition in 1976, where he remained until 1991, when he continued his basic research as an Emeritus Professor and worked steadily until his death in 1994.

Odell played a central role in establishing the foundations of the care of very sick low-birth-weight newborns while he served as the Chief of the Newborn Service at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. His work on the metabolism of bilirubin in

infants was the major research commitment of his academic life. Odell's path-breaking, bench-to-bedside research laid the foundations of life saving, state-of-the-art care of premature newborns worldwide.

As a clinician, Odell fostered intense skepticism about conventional wisdom in the treatment of a wide variety of pediatric illnesses. He embodied the Hippocratic injunction to "First, do no harm," and a generation of his disciples became early advocates of what is now called "evidence-based medicine". He was intolerant of hypocrisy and pretense, set high standards for his students and trainees, and was a caring and supportive mentor to many.

Because of his integrity, intelligence, unfailing wit and gift for bench and clinical science, Odell was widely sought for leadership roles locally, nationally, and internationally. He trained nearly 30 basic and clinical scientists over his career. Odell's legacy as a physician-scientist inspired many who have sought to emulate his model of critical thinking, scientific inventiveness and rigor, in the service of exceptional care to children.