

2013 Richard Spear, MD, Memorial Essay Contest

Medical Writing for the Public Award

As part of this year's essay contest, a new award was presented for the first time. The Medical Writing for the Public Award was established in order to recognize physicians for outstanding writing about medicine or health care that was published in the lay press. The idea is to encourage physicians to share their expertise and perspective with readers in the general public, in the interest of amplifying the voices of doctors in our community, for the betterment of society.

The judges chose to honor two physicians with the Medical Writing for the Public Award.



Virginia Keeney, MD, a retired child psychiatrist, won for "Louisville's Polio Battle Joined 50 Years Ago," which appeared in *The Courier-Journal* on October 14, 2012. Dr. Keeney chronicled the massive community campaign, spearheaded by a key group of medical society physicians, to vaccinate the population against polio for the first time in 1962.



Michael Stillman, MD, an assistant professor in the University of Louisville School of Medicine's Department of Medicine who practices with UofL Physicians-Internal Medicine, won for "'Dismaying' Number of Uninsured Kentuckians," published in *The Courier-Journal* on September 30, 2012. Dr. Stillman, who had recently moved to Louisville from Boston, described the plight of his uninsured patients as an argument against federal lawmakers who support repealing the Affordable Care Act.