**I. WOC Nurse of the Year Award**

The WOC Nurse of the Year award is established to recognize a colleague who exemplifies excellence in WOC Nursing via contributions to mentorship, professional and patient education, or excellence in research or writing. An individual who meets the general criteria listed below AND who also meets the criteria for the focus area may be nominated for this award. The recipient will be selected according to the following criteria:

**General Criteria:**

1. Nominee must be a member of PCR for a minimum of 2 years
2. Nominee must attend at least one regional meeting a year
3. Nominee must be board certified, (WOCNCB)
4. Nominee practices WOC Nursing with 50% of time in direct patient care related to WOC Nursing
5. The nominee must also meet the criteria for **ONE** of the following focus areas:
*Mentorship, Patient Education, Professional Education and/or Excellence in Writing/Research.*

**Mentorship Focus**

One of the most important reasons for belonging to a professional organization is personal and professional growth. This takes place through formal education, but also as seasoned members nurture and guide colleagues. Mentors are established professionals who realize the value of experience and provide leadership to less experienced colleagues, in the form of caring, concern and direction. Nominees for the WOC Nurse of the Year may be recognized for their generosity and dedication to WOC Nursing by extending themselves far beyond the demands of their employment positions to give of themselves to their colleagues.

**Criteria for Nomination:**

The nominee must meet the general criteria and must demonstrate their support of WOC Nursing as exhibited by **three** of the following:

* Assists another member in the development of a formal educational offering for nursing staff or WOC colleagues
* Assists another member in the development of a professional poster presentation, research paper or an article submitted for publication, permitting the "student" to be the primary author and establish themself in the professional community
* Provides instruction to a colleague regarding issues related to successful marketing or management of his/her career as a WOC Nurse
* Serves as a preceptor for a community based nursing program or WOC Nursing Education Program
* Consistently shares career growth information with colleagues
* Assists a colleague in the development of a program, materials or other project, which permits the "student" to be recognized
* Is available to answer questions and provide support
* Teaches new skills or knowledge on a 1-to-1 basis with the "student".

**Professional Education Focus**

Education for WOC practice must keep pace with evolving scientific knowledge and the standards influencing the development, application, and evaluation of our practice. WOC nurses who demonstrate exemplary qualities in professional education, both to peers and other healthcare professionals may be recognized for contributions.

**Criteria for Nomination:**

The nominee must meet the general criteria listed above and demonstrate sound organizational skills and well-articulated knowledge base; presents information in an engaging manner with appropriate audio-visual tools; states and meets clear objectives for presentations; and provide outstanding professional education that addresses the following needs:

1. To create new approaches to nursing problems
2. To increase the healthcare professional's competence (knowledge & skills) to enhance the quality of patient care
3. To stay updated on evidence-based practice
4. To promote the positive image of our profession to the healthcare community.

**Patient Education Focus**

Patient teaching is an important part of WOC Nursing, involving interpersonal interactions in trusting relationships between the patient and nurse. Nominations will be considered for WOC Nurses who meet the general criteria for WOC Nurse of the Year and who demonstrate exemplary contributions to patient education via one of the following criteria:

**Criteria for Nomination:**

The nominee must either:

1. develop an original instructional material or teaching method that meets a special need within the scope of WOC Nursing, (example: videos, models, posters, pamphlets, booklets, handouts, etc.)

OR

1. have given educational presentations to lay people related to a topic within the scope of WOC Nurse practice, (example: health fairs, lectures at support groups, or participation in wellness programs, etc.)

**Excellence in Writing or Research Focus**

The WOC Nurse of the Year nominee may be recognized for excellence in original or contributionsss to professional writing or research. Excellence in writing or research encompasses writing articles for publication, creating posters for presentation or research surrounding wound, ostomy or continence issues. To nominate an individual for WOC Nurse of the Year with a focus on writing/research, submit the nomination form with 1 copy of the manuscript/research article or poster to the PCR Public Relations Coordinator.

**Criteria for nomination:**

* Nominees for the award must be named as primary or secondary author on the manuscript, poster or research project.
* The manuscript/research article must be published or accepted for publication, or the poster must be accepted for presentation at a professional conference. The manuscript, research article or poster will be judged on the following criteria:
	+ Relevance & significance of contribution to WOC Nursing practice
	+ Originality
	+ Validity
	+ Writing style