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## **The American Orthopaedic Association Announces The 2024 Distinguished Award Winners**

*Rosemont, IL, June 19, 2024* - The American Orthopaedic Association (AOA) announced its 2024 Distinguished Award Winner recipients during the Opening Ceremony of the 2024 AOA Annual Leadership Meetings on June 19, 2024, in St. Louis, MO.

These individuals are nominated by their peers within the AOA for their leadership and accomplishments for their contributions to the specialty. They are:

- 2024 Distinguished Contributions to Orthopaedics Award - Louis U. Bigliani, MD, FAOA

The AOA Distinguished Contributions to Orthopaedics (DCO) Award recognizes an AOA member's personal achievement, commitment to excellence, meritorious leadership, and substantial contributions influencing the orthopaedic specialty.

- 2024 Distinguished Clinician Educator Award – Paul Tornetta, III, MD, FAOA

The AOA Distinguished Clinician Educator (DCE) Award recognizes an AOA member as an exceptional orthopaedic clinician educator.

The award emphasizes the critical role that clinician educators play within academic health centers, where state-of-the-art educational programs demand faculty time devoted to training medical students, graduate students, residents, and other health professionals.

### **Louis U. Bigliani, MD, FAOA**

#### **2024 Distinguished Contributions to Orthopaedics Award**

Dr. Louis U. Bigliani was the Frank E. Stinchfield Professor and Chairman of Orthopedic Surgery at Columbia University and the Director of the Orthopedic Surgery Service, New York-Presbyterian Hospital Columbia campus, and Chief of the Shoulder and Elbow Service. He is a nationally and internationally recognized expert in shoulder surgery.

Dr. Bigliani was President of the American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons in 1998 and was founding Secretary, then Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery, 2002-2005. In 2008 he became the 121<sup>st</sup> President of the American Orthopedic Association. From 2010 to 2016, he was Chairman of the International Board of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery.

In 1972 Dr. Louis Bigliani graduated from Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine and received the Outstanding Student Award, in 2002 the Stritch AOA Alumnus of the Year, and in 2022 the Stritch Alumnus of the Year Award for Excellence in Education.

Dr. Bigliani completed a residency in Orthopedic Surgery at The New York Orthopedic Hospital Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center followed by a Fellowship in Shoulder Surgery with Charles Neer II and a Hip and Knee Arthroplasty Fellowship with Frank Stinchfield.

During his Chairmanship, 1998 to 2014, Dr. Bigliani served as President of the Medical Board of New York Presbyterian Hospital in 2008. From 2011 to 2014 he served as President and Chairman of the Board of Columbia Doctors, the Faculty Practice Plan of Columbia University Medical Center. He received the Physician of the Year Award from New York Presbyterian Hospital in 2011.

As Chief of the Shoulder and Elbow Service from 1990 to 2013, Dr. Bigliani trained over 50 fellows and 30 international fellows. Through peer-reviewed publications, he contributed to advances in the treatment of shoulder instability, subacromial impingement, rotator cuff tear, nerve injuries, and reconstructive arthroplasty.

Dr. Bigliani's family includes his wife, Dr. Anne Kremetz, two daughters and sons-in-law, Anne-Louise and Tom Nieto, Suzi and J Hlavacek, and three grandsons, TJ, Andrew, and Ward.

**Paul Tornetta, III, MD, FAOA**  
**2024 Distinguished Clinician Educator Award**

Paul Tornetta III, MD is an orthopaedic trauma surgeon whose career has focused on improving patient care and orthopaedic education. He describes himself as a "blue-collar surgeon" who takes pride in promoting a shared decision-making model with his patients, the process of lifelong learning, and a reputation for fairness and transparency.

Dr. Tornetta has been named a Castle Connolly Top Doctor annually since 1999 and Boston Magazine Top Doc since 2006. He has published over 300 papers, edited over 25 textbooks and book series, and taught or chaired over 350 courses.

He has an interest in large scale studies, leads a multicenter research consortium, and was a steering committee member of trials that have won the OREF Clinical Research award and the Kappa Delta Award twice. He is a Past President of the Orthopaedic Trauma Association (OTA) and served on the American Orthopaedic Association (AOA) executive committee for over 10 years. Dr. Tornetta is the recipient of the Bovill Award on four occasions, the Leach teaching award four times, and was an AOA ABC traveling fellow. Dr. Tornetta was the Program chair for both the AOA and the OTA as well as serving as the Chair of the publications and critical issues committees for the AOA. He has chaired the AAOS Evaluations Committee, ICL Committee, Annual Meeting Committee, and most recently the Education Council.

He is most proud of the strong collaboration between the AAOS, ABOS, AOA/CORD, and the AAOS Resident Assembly that has led to the new Resident Orthopaedic Core Knowledge (ROCK) curriculum that he created and co-edits with Dr. Carol Morris, that is now fully released. This living program represents a major commitment of multiple groups to support resident education. He is currently the President of the AAOS.

Dr. Tornetta received his bachelor's degree in chemistry and mathematics from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa. He earned his medical degree from SUNY-Health Science Center at Brooklyn (NY), where he also completed his internship and residency in Orthopaedic Surgery, followed by a fellowship in Acetabular/Pelvic Fractures at the Hospital of the Good Samaritan in Los Angeles under Joel Matta, MD. He earned his PhD at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. Dr. Tornetta is a Professor and the Chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Boston University School of Medicine and the Director of Orthopaedic Trauma at Boston Medical Center.

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### **About The American Orthopaedic Association**

Founded in 1887, and the first orthopaedic association in the world, The American Orthopaedic Association is a small, select organization of elected orthopaedic leaders. Membership in The American Orthopaedic Association is an earned membership that comes at the end of a stringent peer-reviewed process. Fewer than 10% of practicing orthopaedic surgeons have achieved AOA Membership. Members of The American Orthopaedic Association are referred to as Fellows of The American Orthopaedic Association (FAOA). This designation after a surgeon's name means that the surgeon has achieved recognition for exceptional accomplishments and leadership in the orthopaedic specialty. Our programs are designed to provide leadership education for surgeons from residency through retirement. The AOA helps orthopaedic surgeons gain and enhance skills and concepts not taught during residency. This includes leadership development courses, content, and training for academic orthopaedists, and providing thought leadership on and solutions for critical issues facing the broad orthopaedic community. Find out more at [www.aoassn.org](http://www.aoassn.org), follow us on X @[aoa1887](https://twitter.com/aoa1887), or on LinkedIn.