



Association of
Immunization
Managers

NATALIE J. SMITH, MD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROGRAM MANAGEMENT *2025 Nomination Process*

The Natalie J. Smith, MD Award was established in recognition of Natalie J. Smith's outstanding management and leadership skills in the area of state and national vaccine-preventable disease programs. This award is the highest form of recognition for the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) awardee immunization program managers. It recognizes the contributions of an immunization program manager who has demonstrated the high ideals, innovation, and commitment to excellence in immunization practices that characterized Dr. Smith's career. The award recognizes accomplishments and visionary leadership that have had a significant impact on achieving city, state, territory, and/or national vaccine-preventable disease goals.

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES FOR NATALIE J. SMITH, MD AWARD

The recipient will be a current or recently retired (retired January 2023 or later) immunization program manager who is designated as the person primarily responsible for actively directing **one of the 64 city, state, or territorial immunization programs directly funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NCIRD.** [The 64 eligible programs include the 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Micronesia, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Chicago, New York City, Houston, San Antonio, Philadelphia.]

Previous Natalie J. Smith, MD Award Recipients (not eligible for 2024 nomination):

2004 - Lorraine Duncan (OR)	2010 - Janna Bardi (WA)	2017 - Pejman Talebian (MA)
2005 - Alice Gray (PA)	2011 - Susan Lett (MA)	2018 - Annette Aguon (GU)
2006 - Beth Rowe-West (NC)	2012 - Kelly Moore (TN)	2019 - Christine Finley (VT)
2007 - Laurel Wood (AK)	2013 - Vincent Sacco (CT)	2022 - Molly Howell (ND)
2008 - Mike Chaney (GA)	2015 - Jane Zucker (NYC)	2023 - Michele Roberts (WA)
2009 - Greg Reed (MD)	2016 - Bob Swanson (MI)	2024 - Ron Balajadia (HI)

- Any individual or organization wishing to recognize the outstanding work of an immunization program manager may submit a nomination using the [2025 Natalie J. Smith Award Submission Form](#).
- All nominations must be submitted using the nomination submission form.
- A maximum of two single-spaced pages can be submitted (three pages total, including the submission form's front page). If a submission exceeds two pages, only the content within the page limit will be considered.

- Multiple nominations for the same individual will not be considered by the selection committee. If multiple nominations are received, submitters will be notified and allowed five business days to re-submit one combined nomination. If a revised nomination is not submitted, the first nomination received will be designated as the official nomination for consideration by the selection committee.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations will be reviewed and a final selection will be made by members of the AIM Natalie J. Smith, MD Award Selection Committee, comprised of current and former immunization program managers, one representative from the CDC/NCIRD, and one representative from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO).

REVIEW PROCESS FOR NATALIE J. SMITH, MD AWARD

Natalie J. Smith, MD award candidates will be judged based on their:

- **Background and experience** in public health and immunizations. [10 points]
- **Accomplishments** (i.e., jobs or projects that have been completed). [30 points]
- **Impact** on the field of immunization, on the community or population, and/or in the immunization program (i.e., raising coverage rates). [30 points]
- **Leadership** within the program, as well as within AIM. [30 points]

DUE DATES

Submissions must be received by **11:59 pm EST on Friday, August 15, 2025.**

Please email the completed submission form to Mikaela Mendoza Pereira at mpereira@immunizationmanagers.org and include “Natalie J. Smith Award Submission” in the subject line.

NOTIFICATION

The recipient of the 2025 Natalie J. Smith, MD Award will be named at the 2025 AIM Leadership in Action Conference in Palm Springs, CA. The recipient will receive a plaque and will have their name listed on a plaque displayed at the AIM national office.

QUESTIONS

Please direct any questions about the Natalie J. Smith, MD Award submission process to Mikaela Mendoza Pereira at mpereira@immunizationmanagers.org.