



Dr. Stephen Trzeciak Receives Inaugural Schwartz Compassion Champion Award at 30th Annual Kenneth B. Schwartz Compassionate Healthcare Dinner

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Author of "Compassionomics" honored alongside
three National Compassionate Caregivers of the Year® Award recipients

BOSTON (November 21, 2025)—[The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare](#) honored **Stephen Trzeciak, MD, MPH**, with the inaugural Schwartz Compassion Champion Award at the [30th Annual Kenneth B. Schwartz Compassionate Healthcare Dinner](#) in Boston, MA. The event exceeded its fundraising goal and raised over \$900,000 for programs that help healthcare workers provide compassionate care to patients and families.

Dr. Trzeciak, the Edward D. Viner Endowed Chief of Medicine and Medical Director for the Adult Health Institute at Cooper University Health Care in Camden, NJ, and Professor and Chair of Medicine at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, is co-author of the groundbreaking book "Compassionomics: The Revolutionary Scientific Evidence that Caring Makes a Difference," and also delivered the evening's keynote address to an audience of healthcare leaders, clinicians, and supporters.

"Dr. Trzeciak's research and advocacy have fundamentally changed how we think about the role of compassion in healthcare," said **Michael Gustafson, MD, MBA**, CEO of the Schwartz Center. "His work has helped advance the scientific foundation for what we've always believed—that compassion is not just a nice-to-have, but a critical component of effective medical care. We are honored to recognize his transformative contributions with our inaugural Schwartz Compassion Champion Award."

Through "Compassionomics" and his own research, Dr. Trzeciak has demonstrated that compassionate care leads to measurable improvements in patient outcomes, healthcare worker satisfaction, and the overall effectiveness of medical treatment. His evidence-based approach has provided healthcare organizations with compelling data to prioritize compassion as a core clinical competency.

"I am honored to be recognized by the Schwartz Center. The science is clear: compassion improves outcomes for patients and strengthens the well-being of healthcare teams," said Dr. Trzeciak. "But beyond the data, compassion is what connects us to the very purpose of medicine—caring for people in their most vulnerable moments. My hope is that this recognition helps advance the science of compassion so that it becomes a core competency in every corner of healthcare. Together, we can build a healthcare system where compassion is measured, valued, and practiced every day."

"Dr. Trzeciak's message resonates across every level of healthcare," said **Jean-Paul Rebillard**, chair of the Schwartz Center Board and president of MedPro Specialty at MedPro Group. "He has given us the scientific data to advocate for what we know in our hearts to be true—that compassion heals."

The evening also honored three recipients of the 2025 National Compassionate Caregivers of the Year® (NCCY) Award: **Elise Bartoul, MA, LPC, LPAT, ATR-BC**, of UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland; **Mark Brown**, recently retired ECMO specialist from Boston Children's Hospital; and **Gioconda Mojica, MD**, of UTHealth Houston McGovern School of Medicine. These healthcare professionals exemplify extraordinary compassion in caring for patients, colleagues, and communities.

The Schwartz Center is grateful to **CRICO** for its generous support of the National Compassionate Caregivers of the Year Award. For close to 50 years, CRICO has provided industry-leading medical professional liability coverage, claims management, and patient safety resources to all of the Harvard medical institutions and their affiliates, and is a recognized leader in evidence-based risk management. Through a national data collaborative, Candello, a division of CRICO, provides clinical risk intelligence products and solutions and fosters an active online community of shared learning.

"At CRICO, we understand that truly exceptional healthcare happens at the intersection of medical expertise and authentic human connection," said **Mark E. Reynolds**, CEO of CRICO. "Our experience shows that when clinicians foster relationships built on empathy and respect, patient outcomes improve across every measure. This award reflects what we value most—care that addresses not only the medical condition, but honors the dignity and humanity of each individual we serve."

Visit theschwartzcenter.org/award for details.

About the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare

Founded in 1995, the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare partners with healthcare organizations to advance compassion for patients, care teams, and their healing relationships.

Nearly 800 healthcare organizations around the world run the Schwartz Rounds® program, which creates dedicated space for healthcare workers to discuss the emotional dimensions of their work—both the challenges and the joys. Research shows this program strengthens compassion and enhances patient care.

The Schwartz Center's evidence-informed programs and resources have proven to be versatile, sustainable and effective across diverse settings, including hospitals, outpatient clinics, cancer centers, VA medical centers, organ donation organizations, nursing homes, hospice providers, health insurers, and beyond.

Visit us at theschwartzcenter.org or follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

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