

ACDIS *Melissa Varnavas Accomplishment in CDI* award

Summary

The Association of Clinical Documentation Integrity Specialists (ACDIS) *Melissa Varnavas Accomplishment in CDI* award recognizes an individual who has achieved notable success as a CDI professional in their facility or within their broader organization. This award is open to both seasoned CDI professionals as well as those who may be fairly new in their CDI journeys.

The recipient of the Accomplishment in CDI award:

- Serves as a role model to their CDI colleagues
- Demonstrates leadership skills in their role as a CDI professional
- Advocates for the basic tenets of CDI across departments
- Seeks out professional development opportunities
- Works to advance the interests of their CDI department

Criteria

To that end, nominees for the annual CDI Recognition award should have:

- ACDIS membership
- At least two years' experience as a CDI professional at the time of nomination
- CCDS certification
- An active position within their CDI department or in a role serving the CDI profession

Attributes

Additionally, nominees for the CDI Recognition award should:

- Adhere to the ACDIS Code of Ethics by (for example)
 - Following the core ethical principals
 - Applying the core principals to daily activities
 - Describing the purpose of core principals to colleagues
- Seek out educational opportunities by (for example)
 - Participating in quarterly conference calls
 - Contributing to discussions on the ACDIS Forum
 - Reading and sharing ideas from CDI related publications
- Contribute to the advancement of the profession by (for example)
 - Serving as a team lead, mentor, or educator
 - Assisting with volunteer efforts of association chapters/networking groups
 - Working in a cross-disciplinary fashion with other departments within the facility
 - Fostering teamwork and collegial activities
- Demonstrate measurable achievements resulting from CDI responsibilities by (for example)
 - Project research results for CDI program expansion
 - Record review metrics related to productivity
 - Data analysis related to educational outcomes

Nomination considerations

The following questions are designed to assist the nominee and his/her colleagues in the submission process. The nominator should work in conjunction with the nominee to provide:

- Resume
- Supportive evidence of accomplishments (e.g., supportive program data, sample articles, PowerPoint presentations, tip sheets, facility newsletters, etc.)
- Optional letter(s) of recommendation

Evaluation considerations

All nominations will be evaluated by the Conference Committee. The committee will consider the following questions:

- What makes this nominee stand out from their peers?
- What material improvements has the nominee made in his or her CDI department or CDI related place of employment?
- Does this nominee exemplify the ethical standards of the Association?
- How has the nominee encouraged others to progress?
- What challenges has the nominee faced? How have they overcome them?
- Is the nominee involved with any related professional associations? If so, in what capacity?
- How does the nominee foster teamwork and good staff relations?
- How does the nominee go "above and beyond" in their facility or workplace to make a difference?
- How does the nominee support other professionals and implement the team concept in meeting goals?

About Melissa Varnavas

ACDIS is proud to present this award in honor of our friend and colleague, Melissa Varnavas, who passed away in 2022. Melissa's spirit of service imbued ACDIS with so much over the years, including the creation and nurturing of local chapters and networking groups around the country, which she devoted herself to supporting. She joined the ACDIS team in 2008, only a year after its inception, and she was truly the heart and soul of ACDIS. Through her work with ACDIS local chapters, conferences, and publications, she was able to connect with so many members of the association, and she brought so much joy to so many people. She focused on education and service, but always with an eye to making it accessible, interesting, and entertaining. With this award, we wish to honor those who have made significant achievements as a CDI professional and ensure that Melissa's legacy lives on in the ACDIS community.