The Richard F. Malacrea Research Endowment

A respected member and leader of the NATA for 43 years, former District 2 Director "Dick" Malacrea's accomplishments have been extensive since his graduation from West Chester State College in 1954. He subsequently earned his Certificate of Physical Therapy in 1957. Hard work and sacrifice became a way of life for Dick. He served as a U.S. Army Scout and then continued on with his career as Head Athletic Trainer at Swarthmore College. In 1968, Dick made his final career move to Princeton University as Head Athletic Trainer.

During his tenure at Princeton, Dick was the recipient of the Marvin Bressler Award from the Princeton Varsity Club. Since 1997, this has been awarded to that member of the Princeton family who, through heartfelt support of the University's student-athletes and coaches, best embodies a belief in the lifelong lessons taught by competition and athletics as a complement to the overall educational mission. It is awarded in the spirit of Dr. Marvin Bressler, professor of sociology from 1963-94.

Dick was instrumental in the founding of the Athletic Training Society of New Jersey (ATSNJ) in 1975. He championed the first Athletic Training Practice act in New Jersey in 1984. Through this society, Dick was appointed by the Governor to be Chairman of the Athletic Training Advisors Committee to the Board of Medical Examiners. Throughout his career, Dick always worked to help others achieve and to create the highest standards for athletic trainers today.

The ATSNJ honored Dick with its Most Distinguished Service Award in 1990, inducted him into the ATSNJ Hall of Fame in 1997, and has awarded the Richard F. Malacrea Scholarship annually since 1992.

That same year, he achieved entry in the NATA Hall of Fame which was created to recognize members who have demonstrated career excellence nationally in the athletic training profession. It is the highest honor which may be bestowed upon a member. Therefore, individuals inducted into the Hall of Fame must exemplify the mission statement of the NATA by enhancing the quality of health care provided by athletic trainers and advance the athletic training profession with such qualities as leadership, service, dedication, scholarly activities, promotion and professionalism.
The Need for Your Contribution

Since the Foundation’s founding 15 years ago, individuals and organizations have generously contributed both time and money to support scholarship, research, and outstanding achievement. With this help, we have built an important and valued resource for athletic trainers, athletes, and all people who are physically active.

There is an urgent need to continue and significantly expand funds available for research. The relevance and impact of top quality scientific research to reduce and minimize the impact of injuries is already evident. The quality and effectiveness of this research reinforces the need to support and sponsor additional research.

Your Contribution to the Richard F. Malacrea Research Endowment

Additional gifts will be added to the principal of the Richard F. Malacrea Research Endowment. This will allow the Foundation to enhance its crucial role to drive cutting edge research that is critical to the collective future of those active in the athletic training profession.

Your contribution is a gift that keeps on giving. Endowments are held in perpetuity and provide annual income for important research grants for future generations.

Established in 2004, the proceeds from this endowment annually underwrite a Master’s Level Research grant of up to $1,000. Additional contributions would generate a larger level of income for distribution. For each increase of $50,000, one additional Master’s level scholarship or Doctoral level scholarship of $2,000 would be able to be presented annually.

The ability to create a named Richard F. Malacrea Research Grant exists for those that are willing to underwrite a Masters or Doctoral grant.

“The Foundation’s research grant programs have been instrumental to both me and my students. Not only have they helped to develop our future researchers, but they continue to support our profession’s top investigators and most important questions.”

Mark A. Merrick, PhD, ATC
Associate Professor & Director
Department of Exercise and Sport Science
The Ohio State University