

## **2020 Dickson Awardee: James Dunford**

In 2010, after 30 years in the Department of Emergency Medicine, James Dunford retired as Professor Emeritus of Clinical Emergency Medicine & Surgery; nevertheless, he continued his position as City EMS Medical Director, in which he was appointed in 1986, by working part-time seeing emergency department patients, and conducting and teaching clinical research. James also led a project to create a health information exchange for San Diego, after his colleagues received a \$15M Beacon Community Grant, and he worked with SD EMS to develop an EMS Hub that would allow for more efficient access to data and information during emergencies.



By his retirement, James served two terms and five years as President of the SD American Heart Association and he remained active following retiring and was also active in the Alliance of Healthcare Foundation. Prior to retirement, James created a community paramedic initiative called the Resource Access Program to help manage a small number of highly impactful people who repeatedly access 9-1-1 for non-emergencies which was later recognized by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. He also partnered with Father Joe's Village and 211 San Diego create a social information exchange linking the databases of all community-based organizations - housing, elder care, food, EMS, transportation, legal aid, etc. to enhance care for the vulnerable, which later became the Community Information Exchange, in which James is a board member.

Over the years, James has also collaborated with SDPD as medical advisor and on the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team, and served as emergency medicine expert at the National Quality Forum, Medical Director at the McAlister Institute, and Signs of Life. He received the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award in 2010, and continues to teach and advice medical students, faculty, and physicians through seminars and lectures.

