SPA Awards Committee

Award of Merit – Unique Initiative

Terms of Reference

2026 Version

PURPOSE: Awarded to a physical therapist or group of physical therapists that have shown initiative to contribute to health care in an innovative or unique way. This award is meant to be considered when an opportunity to recognize an extraordinary effort has presented itself, not necessarily on an annual basis.

HISTORY: Established in 2003 in order to recognize a physiotherapist or group of physiotherapists who do not fit into other award categories, but who deserve to be honoured by the profession because of their original efforts.

CRITERIA: Must be a member or group of members in good standing with CPA and SPA.
For groups, at least 50% of the representatives must be CPA/SPA members and must be actively participating in the field of physiotherapy.

One or more of the following must apply:

- Has/have shown an effort to go "above and beyond" in order to create new projects providing health care to individuals who normally could not receive benefits.
- Has/have shown enthusiasm to promote new learning opportunities for health care providers or for health care clients.
- Has/have created new, reciprocal relationships with groups that benefit health care clients or their providers. This can include fundraising or mentorship. Some examples include: Shinerama, Jingle Bell Run, Joints in Motion.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE: Any SPA member may make nominations.
Nominations must be submitted in written form and must include:

- Name and contact information of nominator.
- Name and contact information of a seconder who would support the nomination.
- Name and contact information for nominee.
- One letter of support, outlining how the individual or group meets the criteria as stated above, outlining the nature of the unique contribution or initiative.

Deadline for submissions: February 13, 2026

SELECTION OF RECIPIENT:	Made by the SPA Awards Committee. At the discretion of the Awards Committee and the SPA Board, more than one person or organization may win the award.
PRESENTATION:	Annually – At the SPA Annual General Meeting. Award winners will be contacted by the committee prior to the AGM and invited to attend the awards presentation and make a brief response to the award received. A complimentary entry for the awards presentation will be provided to both the award nominator and the recipient.
FORM OF AWARD:	Framed Certificate and $50 Value Prize