



Power of Professionalism

[Dr. Vanessa Medrano](#), Assistant Professor, Cardiology, and [Sandra Stahl](#), Instructor - Nurse Practitioner, Cardiology, received the **2024 Power of Professionalism (POP) Award** from BCM Center for Professionalism. This award recognizes the positive actions of students, residents, fellows, post-docs, faculty and any member of our support staff or administration. Here are the nominations that earned them the award:

Vanessa Medrano:

In 2010, I met an intern whose intelligence and kindness stood out. Over the years, Dr. Medrano's commitment to cardiology became increasingly apparent as she advanced from intern to an attending physician. She is known as the "go-to" person and goes the extra mile to support team members. Amid the pandemic the cardiology department experienced significant attrition. Dr. Medrano stepped up and assumed the role of echo lab director and imaging expert, providing much-needed stability during a time of uncertainty. She emerged as a steadfast mentor for cardiology fellows, affectionately earning the title "Mama Medrano." However, her interactions with patients are what truly distinguishes her. One memorable encounter was with a young Hispanic patient in critical condition. Dr. Medrano overcame the patient's mistrust and language barrier by explaining procedures in simple terms while sitting beside her, holding her hand, and providing reassurance. Following the successful procedure, Vanessa surprised the patient with a cake for her birthday and a pulse oximeter to monitor her symptoms at home. Dr. Medrano's ability to empathize with families during emotional hardship is remarkable; she offers solace and even prays with them, all while maintaining a comforting smile. Dr. Medrano's qualities extend beyond her clinical expertise; she excels as a teacher, leader, and patient advocate. Her role as the program director for cardiology fellows and the clinical course director for medical students in cardiology underscores her dedication. Without a doubt, Dr. Medrano is the ideal candidate for the Professionalism award, and I am proud to work alongside her.

Sandra Stahl :

Sandra Stahl, MSN, AGACNP-BC routinely displays compassion and selflessness well above even the high standards of professionalism expected of Baylor of College of Medicine faculty. In just one recent example, a patient that Sandra follows in the BCM Cardiology Clinic was admitted to Baylor St. Lukes Medical Center and found to have metastatic prostate cancer. The patient had no active cardiac problems, and the Cardiology service was not formally consulted. The patient had a difficult hospital course and ultimately expired under hospice care. I later found out from the patient's family that Sandra had met with them daily, after hours and on her own personal time, during the hospitalization to provide emotional support and guidance. The patient's family found great comfort in Sandra's compassionate and selfless care, as have countless other patients and families. Please accept my strongest recommendation for Sandra Stahl, MSN, AGACNP-BC to receive the BCM Power of Professionalism Award.