UH’s Dr. Smith among 2015 Inductees into Hall of Fame



Dr. Earl L. Smith III

Dr. Earl L. Smith III, Greeman-Petty Professor in Vision Development and Interim Chief Health Officer at the University of Houston, is one of three 2015 inductees into the National Optometry Hall of Fame.

Since 1998, the Hall of Fame has recognized and honored optometrists who have made significant and long-lasting contributions to the profession. Dr. Smith was inducted at a ceremony and reception at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle, Wash. The Hall of Fame is administered by Optometry Cares, a philanthropic and charitable organization committed to expanding eye health and access to vision care for everyone in the United States to enhance human performance and quality of life.

Dr. T. Joel Byars, President of Optometry Cares, and Dr. William E. Cochran, Chair of the Selection Committee, wrote in a joint letter, “It is no small achievement to be selected for this national honor. The dedication and commitment to your students, your community and the profession of optometry as a whole are evident by an impressive collection of activities and responsibilities you have held throughout your career. Our profession is fortunate to be represented by luminaries like you.”

As of August 1, at the end of his appointment as the university’s Interim Chief Health Officer, Dr. Smith will return to his position as Dean of the College of Optometry.