

Memo to: Carolyn Mitchell
ASLA Honors and Awards Coordinator
Nominating Trustee: Jack Carman, FASLA
NJ ASLA Chapter
Date: August 3, 2006
Re: **ASLA Honorary Membership Nomination**

Nominee: **Roger S. Ulrich, Ph.D.**

Nominee's Work Address:
Texas A&M University
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Temporary address until June 2007:
3A Frogna Gardens
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Narrative Description

Dr. Roger S. Ulrich is a Fellow and Director of the Center for Health Systems and Design at Texas A&M University. The Center, which is housed in the colleges of Architecture and Medicine, emphasizes multidisciplinary approaches for research, graduate education and outreach for designing improved healthcare facilities and communities. The Center's activities primarily involve faculty and graduate students in landscape architecture, architecture and planning. In addition to his role as professor of Landscape Architecture and Architecture, Dr. Ulrich, also a behavioral scientist, conducts research on the effects of health care gardens within medical buildings on patient clinical outcomes. His research outcomes have proven that the benefits of viewing gardens and nature extend beyond simple aesthetics. The seminal research conducted in a PA Hospital in 1984 entitled "A View through a Window" has shown that patients recovering from gall bladder surgery were to shown to take less pain medication, have less complaints and be released from the hospital a day earlier when experiencing a view of a wooded areas versus a view of a brick wall in a parking lot.

These and other studies have influenced the site planning and architectural design of hundreds of healthcare facilities. Equally important is the renewed interest in the integration of nature within the physical structure of healthcare buildings in the form of Healing Gardens. The work and research of Dr. Ulrich has led to gardens and nature related experiences becoming an essential part of advocating for new hospital construction. Through Roger S. Ulrich's research, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JAHCO) has implemented revisions to the Environmental Quality Criteria for the accreditation of hospitals and healthcare facilities. In a dramatic change that may have long reaching effects nationally, JAHCO's pending accreditation criteria call for healthcare organizations to provide in facilities the "availability of the calming and restorative powers of nature" (Standard EC.4.1). Also, the criteria call for providing "pleasant" window views that can be seen by patients from their beds. This has significant implications for the work of Landscape Architects and the creation of Healing Gardens and Landscape in various settings within healthcare facilities.

Dr. Ulrich has published extensively and is the most cited researcher internationally in the area of evidenced-based healthcare environmental design. The President of the National Association of Home Builders, Randall Smith has cited the research conducted by Dr. Ulrich as being a "major contribution to the publication "Building Greener Neighborhoods: Trees as Part of the Plan." This book has received three international awards, including the ECO Award from the National Resources Defense Council.

Dr. Ulrich has been the recipient of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Invitation Research Fellowship in Human-Plant Relations. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Center for Health Design. He serves on several editorial boards, including Urban Ecosystems, Landscape Research and Urban Planning. He has been a reviewer for over 15 Journals, including Environment and Behavior, Environmental Impact Assessment Review, Journal of Environmental Psychology and Landscape Journal.

Dr. Ulrich has been a member of the American Society of Landscape Architecture President's Task Force on the value of the Profession to the Society. He is a member on the Expert Committee on Large Airports and Public Health for the Netherlands Ministries of Health and Environment. He has served as a Senior Advisor on the Environment for Patient Care to the British National Health Service. He is currently on research leave in the United Kingdom where he is a visiting professor of Architecture at the University College London and an advisor to the office of the Prime Minister of England.

- Compiled by Jack Carman, FASLA