Three members of the Lerner Research Institute were among Cleveland Clinic employees honored with 2009 Maria and Sam Miller Professional Excellence Awards.

The winners were featured in a color advertisement in The Plain Dealer on Sunday, September 13. The ad — with the headline “Leading the Way in Commitment, Talent and Innovations — read: “These outstanding individuals are recognized for their dedication to excellence and exemplary service employed in their respective fields. We applaud them on this distinguished honor.”

Kay Stelmach, RN, RRT, CCRP, Manager of the Clinical Research Unit (M51, formerly known as the General Clinical Research Center), was named Cleveland Clinic RN of the Year for her accomplishments overseeing research nurses in the CRU — the first time a Research Nurse has been acknowledged for this honor. The CRU is designed to provide an optimal setting for medical investigators to conduct safe, controlled, state-of-the-art, inpatient/outpatient studies of children and adults. It is supported by funding from the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award to a consortium of investigators affiliated with Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of CWRU, MetroHealth Medical Center, Cleveland Clinic, and University Hospitals Case Medical Center.

Charis Eng, MD, PhD, Chair of the Genomic Medicine Institute, was recognized for “Scientific Achievement — Clinical Research.” She is Founding Director of the Center for Personalized Genetic Healthcare, which integrates a patient’s personal genetics and family health history into all their healthcare decisions.

Richard Ransohoff, MD, Neurosciences, was honored for “Scientific Achievement — Basic Science.” A renowned expert on multiple sclerosis, Dr. Ransohoff is Director of the Neuroinflammation Research Center.