The American College of Sports Medicine® (ACSM) is pleased to recognize Bo Fernhall, Ph.D., FACSM, with a 2021 ACSM Citation Award for his significant contributions to the fields of sports medicine and exercise science.

Dr. Fernhall earned a B.S. from Southern Connecticut State College in 1979, an M.S. from the same in 1981 and a Ph.D. from Arizona State University in 1984. He became an ACSM fellow in 1987.

Dr. Fernhall is professor of kinesiology and nutrition and dean of the College of Applied Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago, having begun his deanship in 2011. He has held numerous professorial and administrative roles throughout his career, but his research focus has remained on the relationships between exercise, physical activity and cardiorespiratory health. He has had a particular interest in the way exercise training affects autonomic functions, as well as the cardiovascular fitness of those with intellectual disabilities, contributing a section on Down syndrome to the ninth edition of ACSM's Guidelines for Exercise Testing and Prescription.

Dr. Fernhall has served as an associate editor for Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise® from 2005-2017 and for Exercise and Sport Sciences Reviews since 2014. He is also president elect of the National Academy of Kinesiology. During his career, he has consistently advanced research in the field of sports medicine and exercise science by securing funding from high-profile organizations and authoring or contributing to numerous publications.

According to nominator Dr. Linda Pescatello, FACSM, FAHA: “Dr. Fernhall’s ability to secure competitive extramural grant funding as either a principal investigator or co-investigator is extraordinary. During his tenure as dean ... he has secured over $18,000,000 in competitive extramural funding from prestigious funding agencies that include the American Heart Association, Australian NHMRC, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, Gift of Hope Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and National Multiple Sclerosis Society.”

She continues, “Dr. Fernhall has over 370 referred publications in high impact and prestigious journals in our field that include: Am J Cardiol, Ann Med, J App Physiol, J Hypertens, Med Sci Sports & Exerc, Mayo Clinic Proc, and Mult Scler Relat Disord, among others.”

Due to his profound impact on the fields of sports medicine and exercise science, ACSM is honored to present Dr. Fernhall with a 2021 ACSM Citation Award.