



HERO News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HERO SELECTS NICO PRONK AS RECIPIENT OF MARK DUNDON RESEARCH AWARD

MINNEAPOLIS (Aug. 27, 2013)—The [Health Enhancement Research Organization \(HERO\)](#) announced today that [Nico Pronk, vice president and chief science officer for HealthPartners](#), has been chosen as the recipient of the [HERO Mark Dundon Research Award](#).

“Science-based research has played an essential role in advancing the practice of employee health management and improving the programs that employees across the country participate in every day,” said Jerry Noyce, president and CEO of HERO. “This award recognizes how research experts, like Nico Pronk, influence the process of conducting and disseminating research that demonstrates the connection between wellness programs and corporate objectives like improved employee health outcomes, lower health care costs, and improved productivity. Nico was chosen for this honor because of his resume of published research and his leadership in using research to improve the health of employee populations across the country.”

The [HERO Mark Dundon Research Award](#) recognizes Pronk’s efforts to enhance and promote research that advances the science of employee health management, his track record of authoring peer-reviewed articles, serving as principal investigator on original studies, participating on industry workgroups and facilitating research by other health management professionals.

In his role at HealthPartners, Nico supports the design, development, implementation, and measurement of population health improvement strategies. His work addresses the gap between scientific evidence of effectiveness and practical application of health solutions, and how health resources may be most effectively applied to various settings, such as the workplace, the clinic, or the community.

According to [Philip Swayze](#), chair of the HERO awards committee and associate director of business development for [Abacus Health Solutions](#), Pronk was nominated by his peers and selected based on a review of his overall body of work in the field of employee health management. Applications for the Mark Dundon Research Award were reviewed, rated and ranked by a committee of industry-leading professionals with extensive experience in designing and implementing workplace wellness programs.

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Based in Edina, Minn., the Health Enhancement Research Organization (HERO) is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the creation and dissemination of employee health management research, education, policy, strategy, and leadership.

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