

QRCA Announces 2023 Award Winners

St. Paul, Minn. (April 2023) – [QRCA](#) is proud to announce the recipients of the 2023 QRCA Awards, which recognizes the achievements and contributions of qualitative professionals from across the world. These four awards were presented on March 23rd at QRCA’s Annual Conference, held in Charlotte, North Carolina.

“Our 2023 awards recipients selflessly share their knowledge and expertise of qualitative methods and practices worldwide and are dedicated to QRCA and its members,” said Michael Mermelstein, president of QRCA. “As the global community of qualitative professionals that connects, educates and advances qualitative research, QRCA is proud to work with and support individuals who are so committed to their profession.”

The 2023 award winners are:

Impact Award Winner – Pam Goldfarb Liss

The Impact Award is awarded to a QRCA member for exemplary service to QRCA within the past year. The board selected Pam Goldfarb Liss as this year’s honoree. Pam is a two-term QRCA board member, the lead QRCA Volunteer Matchmaker, a former chapter leader, and a past winner of the Maryanne Pflug Spirit Award. She was recognized in particular for her leadership within the Minnesota Chapter, advocacy of QRCA volunteerism, and tireless promotion of the organization.

Maryanne Pflug Award – Anya Zadrozny

The Maryanne Pflug Spirit Award is given to a QRCA member who demonstrates a buoyant “spirit” and who upholds and celebrates QRCA’s cultural heritage of collegiality among members. Anya Zadrozny demonstrates an incredible “can-do” attitude and enthusiasm for everything she does for QRCA. She is the current co-chair of the Sponsorship Committee. Anya is also a past co-chair of QRCA Annual Conference, past QRCA board member and treasurer. She was selected by a committee of former Spirit Award recipients as this year’s winner.

President’s Award – Ilka Kuhagen

The President’s Award honors a recipient for their exemplary service and dedication to QRCA. Ilka Kuhagen, a 23-year active member of QRCA who has held many leadership roles in QRCA, including as a the International (Ex-North America) chapter leader and QRCA board member, was selected by the board for her significant and ongoing service to QRCA. Most recently, Ilka co-led the International (Ex-North America) Chapter and worked to expand the worldwide reach of QRCA.

Rising Star Award – Chiara Albanese

The Rising Star Award recognizes newer QRCA members who, despite their shorter tenure with the association, have made significant contributions to QRCA. Chiara Albanese is the chair of

the Young Professional's Committee and was a 2022 QRCA Young Professionals Grant recipient. Chiara was nominated by her peers and selected by the board for her contributions to QRCA's young professionals' community.

For more information, visit the [QRCA Award](#) webpage.

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[QRCA](#) is the global community for qualitative professionals that connects, educates and advances qualitative methods, practices and standards on behalf of and with its members. QRCA members are professionals who design, conduct, analyze or support the conduct and analysis of qualitative research. They include independent consultants, in-house researchers, agency researchers, project managers, support services, field resources, academics, students and retirees – all passionate about maximizing the impact of qualitative research.