PhD Tomas A. Salerno, surgery professor, head of the Cardiothoracic Surgery Division and vice president of DeWitt Daughtry Family Department of Surgery at the University of Miami School of Medicine, received the 2009 Robert Zeppa, M.D. Award of Excellence. The ceremony was held on Friday, 12th December 2008. Salerno is also honorary member of the Brazilian Society of Cardiovascular Surgery (BSCVS) and is member of the Editorial Board of Brazilian Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery (BJCVS).

The Robert Zeppa, M.D. Award of Excellence was created to honor the memory of Dr. Robert Zeppa, chief of surgery at Jackson Memorial Hospital, chairman of the Surgery Department and Division of Trauma at the University of Miami.

Dr. Zeppa has been known worldwide for his contributions to medical services and his leadership that led to the creation of the Ryder Trauma Center. The award is presented every two years to a highly acclaimed UM/Jackson physician who best exemplifies the spirit, character, and ethical standards of Robert Zeppa.

Salerno, author of over 300 articles, has won several international awards and is also working on two new books. He describes the conquest of Robert Zeppa, M.D. Award of Excellence as “the most important achievement of my career, a highlight of what has been being associated to Jackson Memorial Hospital, an institution that has given me the opportunity to achieve my goals as an academic surgeon. For this opportunity, I am grateful”.

For further details, visit on the Internet the URL below: http://www.med.miami.edu/news/view.asp?id=1041