
Community Service Award

The Community Service Award is bestowed upon an ACG Allied Health Member, Resident Member, Trainee Member, Member, Fellow, or Master who has initiated or has been involved in volunteer programs or has provided extensive volunteer service post-training. The service must have been performed on a completely voluntary basis and not for the completion of training or position requirements. Such service may include but is not limited to the following: community education programs (e.g., colon cancer awareness); working in free clinics; mentoring advocacy groups or local government committees; teaching in under-served schools related to health education; and political work on committees for comprehensive health insurance or other issues.

2017 Recipient

Amar R. Deshpande, MD, FACC



Dr. Amar R. Deshpande is Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. He completed his medical degree at the University of Miami School of Medicine and then stayed at the University of Miami and Jackson Memorial Hospital for his internal medicine residency and gastroenterology fellowship.

Dr. Deshpande sees patients and does research at the University of Miami Crohn's and Colitis Center. He is co-director of the Advanced IBD fellowship and Vice Chief for Education in the Division of Gastroenterology. He has authored many articles, book chapters, and reviews in gastroenterology and internal medicine journals with multiple presentations at national and international meetings; he is a reviewer for multiple gastroenterology journals, serves as an editor of IBD-related journals, and sits on IBD-related advisory boards. He is also a member of the ABIM Gastroenterology Board Exam Committee.

Dr. Deshpande also has a very active role in medical education at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. He is Assistant Dean for Medical Education and Competency Assessment and was previously the program director of the GI fellowship, co-director of the Internal Medicine clerkship for 3rd year medical students, and director of the GI pathophysiology modules for pre-clerkship medical students, roles for which he has won numerous teaching awards.

He has been a long and passionate advocate for the large and diverse medically underserved population of South Florida. As faculty advisor of the Department of Community Service at UM, or DOCS, he oversees very talented and committed medical students who are part of a group that has won national awards for its commitment to medical philanthropy. DOCS holds health fairs in 10 different underserved communities in South Florida and operates 3 weekly student-run night clinics, providing preventive, primary, and subspecialty care to thousands of people each year with the help of hundreds of medical students and physicians. Dr. Deshpande runs other DOCS-related programs reaching out to the medically needy in his community, including overseeing dozens of students becoming certified application counselors to help uninsured patients gain access to longitudinal medical care.

Dr. Deshpande also has been able to combine his interests in gastroenterology and community service to create a few innovative programs. Along with his colleague, Dr. B. Joseph Elmunzer, he organized 3 sigmoidoscopy screening fairs over 4 years for uninsured patients in South Florida without access to colon cancer screening; this led to 150 endoscopic screenings with 50 polyps removed and high-risk patients navigated to full colonoscopy. He also implemented hepatitis C screening for hundreds of DOCS health fair patients as well as colon cancer screening through FIT; he has worked with another GI colleague, Dr. Dan Sussman, to now bring blood-based colon cancer testing to the health fairs as well.

Past Community Service Award Recipients

2016	David J. Hass, MD, FACP
2015	Darrell M. Gray, II, MD, MPH
2014	Timothy B. Gardner, MD, FACP
2013	Richard T. McGlaughlin, MD, FACP
2012	March E. Seabrook, MD, FACP
2011	Joseph D. DiMase, MD, FACP