
International Leadership 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

Mark D. Topazian, MD, FACC



Mark D. Topazian, MD, FACC graduated from Haverford College in Pennsylvania in 1980 and received his medical degree from the Yale University School of Medicine in 1985. Dr. Topazian is currently Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, where he does endoscopy and sees patients in the Mayo Pancreas Clinic. His research interests include chronic pancreatitis, pancreatic cysts, and endoscopic approaches to pancreatic and biliary disease. He and his wife Janet have 3 daughters.

Dr. Topazian has been a long-time member of the Christian Medical and Dental Associations, and he serves on the CMDA CME Commission. He is a member of the Council of Chairs of the World Gastroenterology Organization. He has been active in strategic initiatives for the medically underserved in the developing world including:

1. Working with colleagues at Tenwek Hospital in Bomet, Kenya, where esophageal squamous cell cancer is a leading cause of cancer death, Dr. Topazian introduced modern forms of endoscopic palliation that are now widely implemented in Kenya and neighboring countries. Together with colleagues from Tenwek and the NCI, he is participating in studies assessing the causes of endemic esophageal squamous cell cancer and has helped launch a grant-funded esophageal cancer screening and prevention program in southwestern Kenya.

2. Between 2008 and 2014 Dr. Topazian co-directed annual GI endoscopy workshops in Accra, Ghana and Ulan Bataar, Mongolia in partnership with national colleagues. The goal of these workshops is to advance the skills of endoscopists at major teaching centers throughout these regions. Colleagues from West Africa and Mongolia have also visited Mayo Clinic, staying with the Topazians and other families from their church. During the last several years these workshops have been totally directed and taught by national staff.
3. Across sub-Saharan Africa there is a pressing need for well-trained doctors, and missionary physicians and surgeons begun residency programs at multiple subSaharan hospitals. Dr. Topazian has taught yearly in the internal medicine residency at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon, which is now an initiative of the Mayo Clinic's International Health Program, and a number of Mayo Clinic consultants and residents have taught there over the past several years.
4. Thiamine deficiency, the cause of beriberi, is common in parts of rural Asia and a leading cause of infant death in some Asian populations. Together with Dr. Phil Fischer of the Mayo Clinic Pediatrics department, Mayo medical students, and colleagues in Cambodia, Dr. Topazian has spearheaded a series of clinical investigations aimed at better understanding, diagnosing, and preventing this neglected tropical disease.

Past International Leadership Award Recipients

2015	Guilherme G. Macedo, MD, PhD, FACP
2014	Henry Cohen, MD, FACP
2013	Toshifumi Hibi, MD, PhD, FACP
2012	Flavio Steinwurz, MD, FACP
2011	Eamonn M. M. Quigley, MD, FACP