
Community Service Award

The Community Service Award is bestowed upon an ACG member 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.

2020 Recipient

Hari S. Conjeevaram, MD, FACG



Hari Conjeevaram, MD, MSc, FACP, FACG, is Tenured Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology at the University of Michigan. He is currently the Program Director for Gastroenterology Fellowship and Medical Director of Student Run Free Clinic.

Dr. Conjeevaram graduated from Madras Medical College, Madras (Chennai), India and went on to complete 3 years of Residency in Internal Medicine followed by 3 years of Fellowship in Gastroenterology at MetroHealth Medical Center, Case Western Reserve University. He then did a 3-year Clinical Hepatology Fellowship at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), during which time he received a Commendation Medal from then U.S. President Bill Clinton for Exemplary Performance of Duty, Department of Health and Human Services, United States Government Public Health Service, NIH. His clinical research over the years has been focused in Viral Hepatitis in Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) and he is currently involved in several clinical research studies in NAFLD. He has published his work in several peer reviewed journals and has been an active member in several GI and Hepatology organizations such as AASLD, ACG, AGA, Indian Association for Study of Liver (IASL) and Ethiopian Gastroenterology Association and he has been voluntarily serving at various levels in many of these organizations.

Dr. Conjeevaram has been active in global education of medical students, residents and GI fellows and has been instrumental in mediating collaborative educational partnerships with global institutions. He has helped arrange the exchange of medical students, residents and gastroenterology fellows between University of Michigan and other International Institutions. Dr. Conjeevaram has also been actively involved in community service at the local, national and international level for the past few decades. As the Medical Director of the Student Run Free Clinic, he works closely with students to provide free medical services to patients who are uninsured or underinsured and as part of his volunteer services at the Free Clinic, he has also been actively involved in mentoring and educating the students.

Dr. Conjeevaram has coordinated and participated in various global medical service activities as an active member of the Sathya Sai International Organization (SSIO) that provides free medical care and health education across the globe. By his active involvement through the SSIO, he has been able to motivate and inspire others to render their time to volunteer for these efforts. He has coordinated and led multiple international medical relief missions including disaster medical relief missions in several countries including in USA, India, Guyana, Sri Lanka (in response to the Tsunami), Haiti (in response to the earthquake), Philippines (in response to Typhoon Yolanda), Kazakhstan and most recently in Ecuador (in response to the earthquake). He actively coordinates and volunteers in medical camps twice yearly in India in a remote village during which 500-2,000 patients are seen and served on a daily basis. He helped set up a Free Gastroenterology Clinic and Endoscopy Unit that provides free GI care and free endoscopies (basic and some therapeutic) in South India to anyone in need. He also volunteers and provides free consultancy and endoscopy care at this hospital twice yearly. Dr. Conjeevaram established an opportunity for University of Michigan GI fellows to work at the Sathya Sai Free Gastroenterology Clinic and GI Endoscopy Unit to learn from practices at these institutes and also better understand to care for those in need, free of charge, without compromising quality of care.

Dr. Conjeevaram has had lifelong interest and passion in education and mentorship of trainees in different countries including students (undergraduate, graduate and medical), residents and fellows. His own journey in Medicine has been involved in integrating education, research and human values with emphasis on service to others and he has always tried to instill the importance of these in all his trainees and inspire them to be the best they can be in everything they do. He strongly believes that the impact that trainees have on teachers, as a reflection of our humanness and caring of others, is truly enormous. On his part as an educator, mentor, and a friend, he believes that we need to create the environment of constant learning and inspiration along with empowerment and wellness, where trainees can maintain and share their best with each other and with everyone. His own personal motto "Inspire and Be Inspired" is a reflection of his service to others and he hopes it will inspire others to selflessly serve others in their communities, at all times.

Past Community Service Award Recipients

2019 Seshadri T. Chandrasekar, MD, DM, DSc, FACG
2018 Louis J. Wilson, MD, FACG
2017 Amar R. Deshpande, MD, FACG
2016 David J. Hass, MD, FACG
2015 Darrell M. Gray, II, MD, MPH
2014 Timothy B. Gardner, MD, FACG
2013 Richard T. McGlaughlin, MD, FACG
2012 March E. Seabrook, MD, FACG
2011 Joseph D. DiMase, MD, FACG